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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Kalskag, Alaska
March 20, 2008
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lester Wilde
- John Andrew
- James Charles
- Mary Gregory
- Edgar Hoelscher
- Raymond Oney
- Greg Roczicka

Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kalskag, Alaska - 3/20/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning ladies and gentlemen, it is now exactly 9:00 o'clock, let's call the meeting to order.

Before we start, public comments are welcome for each agenda item. Please make sure that you want to come before the Council, make sure you get one of these blue tickets and fill it out and hand it to me or to Alex, or Tina, or be recognized by the Chair. Public testimony, time limits may be given to provide opportunity for all to testify. I don't think we'll have that problem today so we can keep on schedule.

The meetings times each day. The order of business in the agenda are estimated and are subject to change without notice.

Contact any Office of Subsistence Management Staff, either Alex or Mr. Buklis over there for the current agenda or meeting schedule, if you have any questions. Tina should have some forms over there.

For the record, the Regional Advisory Council arranges its meeting to hear and understand the subsistence concerns of the area where we meet. Please feel free to share your subsistence concerns and knowledge during the meeting. The agenda is an outline for the meeting and is open to this area's subsistence concern, whether it is listed or not.

Okay, we'll have a roll call to establish a quorum, please.

Greg, oh, yeah, Mr. Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Roll call. James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. ROCZICKA: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Ray Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Here.
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: William Brown is absent.
6 Harry Wilde, Sr.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: Excused.
9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: Absent.
11
12 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Harry Wilde
13 couldn't make it to the meeting because of health
14 reasons. He just went through a couple of operations,
15 and William Brown asked for an excused from the Council
16 and also Joseph Mike had an emergency in the family so
17 those three individuals were asking for excused from
18 the Council.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Please make that as a
21 note, that Harry Wilde, Joseph Mike and.....
22
23 MR. NICK: William Brown.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE:William Brown are
26 excused from the meeting. Thank you. Mr. Secretary,
27 could you please go on.
28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Continuing with the
30 roll. Edgar Hoelscher.
31
32 MR. HOELSCHER: Here.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Mary Gregory.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: Here.
37
38 MR. ROCZICKA: Lester Wilde.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.
41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Paul Manumik.
43
44 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Paul Manumik
45 made plans to attend this meeting. I learned from Ray
46 Oney couple days ago that he was in Anchorage and he
47 has not contacted me that he was traveling elsewhere.
48 And also Bob Aloysius is also in Anchorage, I believe,
49 and he also did not contact me that he was going to be
50 absent.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: With that Joe Mike, as
4 referenced earlier, is absent with excused. Greg
5 Roczicka here, and Robert Aloysius absent.
6
7 Mr. Chair. We have a quorum then with
8 seven members present.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, we do have
11 a quorum. At this time we'll have our invocation. I
12 think since we don't have anybody designated, we'll
13 just ask James, can you say the invocation for us.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MR. CHARLES: (Invocation - In Yup'ik)
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm following after my
20 brother's footsteps, I keep forgetting to turn this on
21 when I get back on the agenda. But, anyway, the
22 housekeeping is No. 5, items will be announced by Alex
23 Nick. Do you have any housekeeping.
24
25 MR. NICK: (Shakes head no)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item 6 is election of
28 officers.
29
30 A. For the Chair.
31
32 B. For the Vice Chair.
33
34 C. For the Secretary.
35
36 D. The Kuskokwim-Delta Coordinating
37 Fisheries.
38
39 Item 1 Lower Yukon CFC appointments.
40
41 Lower Kuskokwim CFC appointments.
42
43 Kuskokwim Working Salmon Group
44 appointments.
45
46 Item 7 is review and adopt draft
47 minutes from September 5-6, 2007.
48
49 No. 8 is Regional Advisory Council
50 concerns and comments.

1 No. 9 is 2008-2010 Federal Subsistence
2 Wildlife Proposals for Council Review.

3
4 The next item is the proposals. We'll
5 follow the presentation procedures for the proposals.

6
7 First we'll introduce the proposals and
8 the analysis.

9
10 Then we'll have the Alaska Department
11 of Fish and Game comments.

12
13 The Federal, State and tribal agency
14 comments.

15
16 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

17
18 Fish and Game Local Advisory comments
19 and concerns.

20
21 Summary of written public comments.

22
23 Public testimony.

24
25 Regional Advisory Council deliberation,
26 recommendations and justification.

27
28 Under the statewide proposals we have
29 WP08-01 wolf, to extend the season.

30
31 WP08-05 brown bear handicrafts.

32
33 Regional proposals we have:

34
35 Moose WP08-33, close to non-Federal
36 qualified subsistence users.

37
38 WP08-34, moose, to establish the
39 season.

40
41 Crossover proposals:

42
43 WP08-35, moose, open Unit 19A.

44
45 WP08-39 to 45, customary and
46 traditional use determinations for
47 residents of Unit 22 for beaver.

48 Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten
49 and wolverine in Unit 22.

50

1 WP08-46/47 is customary and traditional
2 use determinations for residents of
3 Unit 22 for spruce, grouse and
4 ptarmigan, rock and willow.

5
6 WP08-48/49 customary and traditional
7 use determination for all residents of
8 Unit 22 for ground squirrel and
9 porcupine.

10
11 Item 10 on the agenda will be
12 subsistence wildlife issues.

13
14 A. Status of Lower Yukon moose
15 numbers.

16
17 B. Status of Lower Kuskokwim moose
18 numbers.

19
20 C. Status of Lower Kuskokwim moose
21 moratorium.

22
23 Under subsistence fisheries issues:

24
25 11. Yukon River Fisheries management
26 agencies and organizations and their roles.

27
28 B. Yukon River and Kuskokwim Rivers
29 preliminary 2008 outlook and preseason
30 management plan.

31
32 C. Update on salmon bycatch the Bering
33 Sea.

34
35 1. Federal Subsistence Management
36 Program.

37
38 2. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
39 Association Salmon Bycatch update

40
41 D. Fisheries Resource Monitoring
42 Program.

43
44 E. Partners for Fisheries Monitoring.

45
46 1. Program Update

47
48 2. Kuskokwim Native Association.

49
50 F. Call for proposals to change

1 community subsistence fisheries regulations for 2009-
2 2011 regulatory years.
3
4 12. Regional Council business.
5
6 A. .805 letter
7
8 B. Correspondence.
9
10 C. Finalize
11
12 13. Under Agencies and Organizations.
13
14 A. Office of Subsistence Management
15 reports, update.
16
17 1. Status report on rural/non-rural
18 request for reconsideration
19
20 2. Briefing on draft customary and
21 traditional use determination policy.
22
23 B. Refuges and other agencies and
24 other organizations.
25
26 1. Yukon Delta National Wildlife
27 Refuge.
28
29 2. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
30 update.
31
32 C. Bureau of Land Management update.
33
34 D. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 update.
36
37 E. Association of Village Council
38 Presidents update.
39
40 F. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
41 Association.
42
43 G. Yukon River Intertribal Watershed.
44
45 H. Tribal representation.
46
47 I. Municipality and government
48 representatives.
49
50 J. ANCSA Village Corporation Representatives.

1 K. Other organizations.
2
3 14. Determine dates and locations of
4 future meetings.
5
6 A. Fall meeting.
7
8 B. Winter meeting.
9
10 15. Closing comments, Council.
11
12 16. Adjournment.
13
14 Anything else. Any additions or
15 corrections on the agenda.
16
17 Mr. Nick.
18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Larry has one, I
20 mean Vince is topic that he would like on the agenda.
21
22 MR. BUKLIS: Good morning, Mr.
23 Chairman. Larry Buklis, OSM.
24
25 Yes, Vince Mathews, Coordinator for the
26 Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Councils
27 asked that I bring forward, probably best under 11A,
28 the topic of, coordinating efforts up and down the
29 Yukon River through the Coordinating Fisheries
30 Committee, so the CFC process. To better bridge
31 differences and work together. So I have a letter from
32 the up river Councils that I can hand out at that time
33 and say a few words about.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item 11A1?
36
37 MR. BUKLIS: 11A1, yes, currently 11A,
38 as you said, is Yukon River Fisheries Management
39 Agencies and organizations and their roles, and I
40 thought under that we could talk about the CFC
41 coordination.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any others.
44
45 REPORTER: Lester.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry, thank you.
48
49 REPORTER: Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
2
3 MR. HOELSCHER: Item 8 and Item 15 kind
4 of coincide, should we keep them as is or just delete
5 one of them.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item A.
8
9 MR. HOELSCHER: Item 8.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item 8.
12
13 MR. HOELSCHER: And Item 15.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item 8 is Regional
16 Advisory Council comments and concerns.
17
18 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And Item 15 is closing
21 comments, Council. Usually we have it at the end so if
22 it's all right with you then we could just change those
23 closing comments, or those Council comments until Item
24 15; is that okay.
25
26 MR. ANDREW: Council comments, yes.
27
28 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We usually leave
29 that on because some Council members do arrive late
30 sometimes and they usually have some comments they want
31 to express at the end of the meeting.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Edgar and then my
36 An'anaq.
37
38 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. Maybe we should just, on Item 8, delete
40 comments and wait until 15 and just put down Regional
41 Advisory Council concerns.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
44
45 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
46
47 I want to leave it as is, because it
48 gives us the opportunity to speak when we start and
49 then if we have a concern that came up at our meeting
50 then we can also speak the second time around.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll leave as
2 is then. Any other comments on the agenda.
3
4 James.
5
6 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. On D3,
7 that lower Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
8 should be just lower -- should just be Kuskokwim Salmon
9 Management Working Group, that's the real name, it's
10 not lower. So want to scratch out lower and it should
11 be Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
14
15 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where is that now.
18
19 MR. HOELSCHER: Lower, lower, delete.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
22 corrections or additions to the agenda.
23
24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
27
28 MR. NICK: What Council might want to
29 do at this point is discuss Item D -- I'm sorry 6D --
30 I'm sorry Item 6, elections. We have several members
31 that are absent today and in the past the Council have
32 discussed this or if you want to wait until we get
33 there, that's fine, too. I just want to bring that
34 point out because what this Council usually do is they
35 suspend the rules if the agenda is adopted.
36
37 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
40
41 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you. I move to
42 adopt the agenda with corrections and deletions.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As is.
45
46 MR. HOELSCHER: As is.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: As amended.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As amended. Is that

1 including with the election of the Chairs to be --
2 okay.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion to
7 leave the agenda as is then.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: As amended.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As amended, okay. Do
12 I hear a second.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: I seconded it.
15
16 MR. ANDREW: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
19 Andrew.
20
21 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any discussion.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MR. ANDREW: Question.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
30 for, all in favor of the motion say aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye,
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is carried. So
39 we are down to housekeeping items, Mr. Nick.
40
41 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
42 meeting was scheduled not knowing that this is a Holy
43 Week last year and what I did on my own, because in YK-
44 Delta, the people are very -- rather people really
45 respect Holy Week and some people call is Passion Week,
46 and so what I did for my personal information and for
47 the Council's information in the future, I've developed
48 what I call just an Easter Document in the Orthodox
49 Church. We can just simply look at a calendar -- some
50 of our calendars have Easter for Russian Orthodox

1 Church as well as Western Churches up to about 20 years
2 in the future, they have it listed, and I do have that
3 and when you discuss your next meeting I will be able
4 to bring that up.

5
6 Another item is that we've worked very
7 hard to make this meeting happen and I applaud OSM
8 Staff for working with me very closely as well as Lower
9 Kalskag Tribal staff to make this happen. As some of
10 you are aware in the past the Council was invited to
11 meet in upper Kalskag once and then they were again
12 invited to meet in lower Kalskag at this time, and I'm
13 glad that we have a quorum today.

14
15 That's just about what I needed to say.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.
20 Any more comments on housekeeping items.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any of our Staff.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Everybody happy.

29
30 (Council nods affirmatively)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Then we'll go down to
33 Item 6, election of officers, and I'll turn the Chair
34 over to Mr. Nick for that portion.

35
36 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Even though you
37 turned the Chair over to me, the rule here is that the
38 DFO takes over the Chair while the election -- rather
39 while the Council elects a Chair and then the Chair is
40 turned back over to elected Chair or reappointed Chair.

41
42 Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead.

45
46 MR. NICK: The floor is now open for --
47 if there is no further discussion about this topic, the
48 floor is now open for election of Chair. Do I
49 hear.....

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Alex. John Andrew,
2 Kwethluk. I'd like to nominate Lester Wilde by
3 unanimous consent.
4
5 (In Yup'ik)
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I second the
10 motion.
11
12 MR. NICK: Mr. Lester Wilde has been
13 nominated and Mr. Andrew asked for unanimous consent
14 from the Council.
15
16 Do I hear any more discussion.
17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: No objection.
19
20 MR. NICK: No objections.
21
22 (No objections)
23
24 MR. NICK: All those in favor say aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 MR. NICK: The Chair is now turned over
29 to Mr. Wilde. Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
32 confidence. I'm sure that anyone of us, as I've stated
33 before, anybody that's sitting up here, I'm sure, can
34 handle this job just as well as I can, but I'll take
35 your confidence as a serious consideration on my part
36 and try to do the best job I can for you.
37
38 So now we are down to Vice Chairman.
39 Any nominations.
40
41 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Andrew.
44
45 MR. ANDREW: I'd like to nominate Greg
46 Roczicka.
47
48 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg Roczicka's been

1 nominated and seconded. Any further nominations.
2
3 MR. CHARLES: I close the nomination,
4 Mr. Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nominations closed,
7 did you say.
8
9 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik). Closed.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any objections.
12
13 (No objections)
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
16 objections?
17
18 MS. GREGORY: No objections.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, Mr.
21 Greg Roczicka is now the co-Chair. Congratulations,
22 Greg, I can miss the meeting next time.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Down to Item C,
27 Secretary.
28
29 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Hoelscher.
32
33 MR. HOELSCHER: I'd like to nominate
34 Mr. Charles for secretary.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles has been
37 nominated for Secretary.
38
39 MR. ANDREW: Second.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nominations don't
42 necessarily need seconds.
43
44 Any further nominations.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I hope you guys don't
49 mind if I call you by you first names, because Mr. -- I
50 have a tendency to forget your last names and if you

1 don't mind I'll call you by your first names, is that
2 okay.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 (Council nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead, Greg.
9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: You can call me Mr.
11 Greg.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Greg, yes.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: I nominate Mr. Ray Oney.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: I move nominations cease.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
22 close nominations. Do I hear a second.
23
24 MR. ANDREW: Second.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded. All in
27 favor say aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, you have your
32 pad in front of you, either mark an O for Ray or a J
33 for James.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Do we have
36 ballots. Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.
39
40 MS. GREGORY: Do we have ballots to
41 vote on.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, we have to use our
44 little square.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: He's getting them I
47 think.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, all right. I'm
50 so used to being tear a piece of paper type of guy.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. CHARLES: Who's the candidate now.
4
5 MR. NICK: You and Ray.
6
7 MR. CHARLES: Me.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. CHARLES: I don't know how to
12 write, I barely know how to spell my name.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I see, who is it
15 again, Tina.
16
17 REPORTER: Ray or James.
18
19 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes, Ray or James for
20 the recording of secretary, they do the minutes and
21 they take the roll call now and then.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 (Pause)
26
27 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
30
31 MR. NICK: The results, very close.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. NICK: Four Ray Oney, three for
36 Charles.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Ray.
39
40 MR. NICK: Mr. Ray Oney.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Ray Oney is
43 our new Secretary. And if my An'anaq wants to give her
44 tablet over to Ray she can.
45
46 MR. HOELSCHER: Greg.
47
48 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, right now, to Ray.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Officially we'll
2 appoint you right away so you could learn what to do.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Alex, how do
9 you do with the coordinating fisheries committee, are
10 they appointed by the Chair or are they voted on.

11
12 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. The way it has
13 been handled by this Council in the past is that the
14 Council appoint Lower Yukon Coordinating Fisheries
15 Committee members. Current members are Ray Oney from
16 Alakanuk and Edgar Hoelscher from Hooper Bay. And our
17 understanding was in the past that this committee
18 serves on an as-needed basis, I don't know if that's
19 still current information we have. Larry, Coordinating
20 Fisheries Committee members are on an as-needed basis
21 in the Yukon, that's where we are right now, yes, Mr.
22 Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are the members of the
25 lower Yukon CFC members, are you happy with your
26 appointments, you two, if so, we'll just keep it as is.

27
28 (Council members Hoelscher and Oney nod
29 affirmatively)

30
31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. The Council
32 appointed Ray Oney and Edgar Hoelscher about a year or
33 so ago. And as you remember you stepped down and you
34 recommended that the Council appoint someone so Edgar
35 was appointed by the Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.

38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I was just going to put it in a form of a motion and
41 without objection that the existing members be
42 reappointed.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you hear the
45 motion, do I hear a second to the motion.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections.

50

1 (No objections)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
4 objections.
5
6 (No objections)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seeing none, so be it.
9 So all of the standing committee now for the lower
10 Yukon will be Ray Oney and Ed Hoelscher.
11
12 For the lower Kuskokwim.
13
14 MR. ANDREW: James Charles.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles was one
17 and who was the other.
18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. James Charles
20 and Bob Aloysius serve on Kuskokwim Coordinating
21 Fisheries Committee.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What does the Council
24 feel about those two, as appointed.
25
26 MS. GREGORY: Same.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections to
29 those two.
30
31 (No objections)
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: No objection, Mr.
36 Chairman, but for the record, just say without
37 objection that the existing members be reappointed.
38
39 MR. ANDREW: Second.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made and
42 seconded, do I hear any objections.
43
44 (No objections)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections)
47
48 (No objections)
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So be it. Kuskokwim

1 Working Group member appointments. Mr. Nick, make a
2 comment on that, who are those two, I know one is Mary;
3 is that right.

4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. In the past the
6 way I was observing the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group
7 is what you're asking?

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, somebody -- I
10 don't know if they wanted to keep those same
11 appointees.

12
13 MR. NICK: I think James Charles
14 and.....

15
16 MS. GREGORY: No.

17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 MR. NICK: I see someone objecting.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. On the
23 Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group there is one member
24 appointed from the RAC to serve on that, currently that
25 is Bob Aloysius. James Charles is on that committee,
26 that group as well but he serves as our at-large elder
27 representative seat.

28
29 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Mr.
30 Roczicka is correct, but in the past you've had two
31 members appointed from the Council. But because James
32 Charles is already on the ADF&G AC and he also was
33 representing the Council, the Council agreed in the
34 past to keep him that way, I mean keep his
35 representation that way.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

42
43 Appointment to that lower Kuskokwim
44 Working Group is one member with an alternate, that's
45 how it used to be when I knew it.

46
47 MR. NICK: Thank you for reminding me
48 that Mary Gregory was serving as an alternate for
49 Kuskokwim CFC [sic].

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
2 any objections to keeping Bob Aloysius and Mary --
3 Mary, would you still be interested in serving as an
4 alternate?

5
6 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I don't mind.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any objections
9 to that.

10
11 (No objections)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Being no objections,
14 so ordered Review draft minutes for September 5 to 6,
15 2007. Council members.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are they not in the
20 book, Greg, go ahead.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, they are, they're
23 immediately following on Page 6.

24
25 Generally I don't worry about small
26 typos or things like that but when there's something
27 that's significantly different than what's written
28 down, on Page 9 on the top paragraph on the very last
29 line regarding our action.

30
31 The last sentence says the extra
32 conditions listed by the Office of Subsistence
33 Management review committee in their modification
34 reflect additional burden and it should say,
35 unnecessary, and it says they are necessary or
36 redundant.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39
40 MR. ROCZICKA: And that was regarding
41 our action on that, recommendation on that proposal for
42 the allowing the exemption for elders on Yukon
43 fisheries.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Any
46 further corrections on the minutes.

47
48 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

1 MR. NICK: What I gave a couple of you
2 is a worksheet that, you know, I would like to use as a
3 document to revise your minutes. We did the very best
4 we can because I wasn't at the meeting in Marshall and
5 I worked with a couple other team members to work on
6 your minutes. So if you do have edits, Greg, I would
7 appreciate it if you give it to me so that would speed
8 up the process to get the edits incorporated.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Since I
11 wasn't at that meeting I'll have to leave it up to you
12 to check the minutes out.

13
14 Any further discussion. Greg.

15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Not from me, Mr. Chair,
17 that was the only thing.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody else.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no --
24 what are you saying.....

25
26 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. A motion is in
27 order to adopt the.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was just getting to
30 that, could you let me do my job, thank you.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The Chair will now
35 entertain a motion for adoption of the minutes.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move that
38 we accept the September 5 and 6, 2007 meeting of the
39 RAC minutes with corrections.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion has been made
42 to adopt the minutes as corrected. Do I hear a second.

43
44 MR. CHARLES: Second.

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by.....

49
50 MR. ANDREW: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE:by pick your
2 choice, Tina.
3
4 MR. HOELSCHER: Tie.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor of the
7 motion say aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is carried. We
16 are down to Regional Advisory Council concerns and
17 comments. Any concerns or comments from any of you.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'll go
20 first. I'd like to thank the village of lower Kalskag
21 for hosting us even though they're not here. And I'd
22 like to thank these ladies who have been very attentive
23 since yesterday to make sure that we don't go hungry,
24 thank you, ladies. And I'd like to thank those of you
25 who came despite everything that's happening,
26 especially me and James Charles, this is our passion
27 week and we read the Passion of Jesus this week, our
28 Easter is early this year. So Alex asked me if I was
29 going to come and I said, yeah, sometime you have to
30 make little sacrifices like this and then attend the
31 meeting. So I have the Passion Week manual with me if
32 you want to come listen to me read, James, you're
33 welcome.
34
35 And also we'd like to get as many
36 people from the village to come and talk to us about
37 your concerns regarding fish and game. I thank you
38 all, ladies, for putting us up.
39
40 Quyana.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary.
43 Anybody else. James
44
45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
46
47 (In Yup'ik)
48
49 Because the people in my region, I want
50 to help the people in my region up and down the

1 Kuskokwim, our whole YK-Delta.
2
3 (In Yup'ik)
4
5 It's for the benefit of the whole
6 region.
7
8 (In Yup'ik)
9
10 That's why I talk on the talk shows
11 sometimes just for the benefit of the people in the
12 region.
13
14 (In Yup'ik)
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, James.
19 Anybody else.
20
21 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.
24
25 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 The only thing I have is, you know, on our agenda,
27 every time we go to a village, you know, I think it'd
28 be proper if the hosting village, you know, welcomed us
29 into their community, I think it would make me feel a
30 lot better if we have someone from the community, you
31 know, welcome us into their village because, you know,
32 that's what I'm used to. And maybe for future meetings
33 I think we should have that on our agenda.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I think
38 that might have been an oversight on the part of our
39 coordinator to get somebody to welcome us. I'm sorry I
40 should have taken note of that earlier, too. Any
41 comments, Alex.
42
43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We do have some
44 folks from the village here sitting in the audience and
45 if any of the locals would like to say a few words, you
46 know, there's table there, you know, you could go on
47 record, welcome the Council here.
48
49 Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anybody
2 want to welcome us to your village.
3
4 (Welcome invitation)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Press that
7 little button.
8
9 MS. KERR: My name is Adrian Kerr. I
10 work with Sisterhood and we wanted to welcome you and
11 hope you enjoy your meals.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, very much.
16 Any other comments from the Council. Edgar.
17
18 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No. Greg.
21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 And I appreciate Ray bringing that up. Even though it
24 may be like a brief welcome in so many other areas it's
25 just like you're being given permission to speak
26 within.....
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.
31
32 MR. ROCZICKA:someone's own
33 community. And it's over and over again sitting on
34 this Council, you are really a voice for people to
35 bring things to you, and it's a very scary place to be.
36
37 A lot of times when you get people
38 coming saying why didn't you get that to change and why
39 this regulation is this way and that way and we try to
40 make those recommendations. On other sides we
41 sometimes get accused of -- or people think that we're
42 up here just only pushing our own agendas and our own
43 thoughts and trying to get things done and trying to
44 get that across and bring the word forward from what
45 people come and tell us, you try to get guys to come to
46 meetings and when they tell you something that they
47 feel very strongly about and say, well, please come to
48 the meeting and tell it to us so it's on the record and
49 it's coming from you, too, and we hear it from -- and
50 the other people can hear it so it's not just only

1 coming from us and so many times you get, no, no, you
2 go do it, I don't like to talk on the microphone and
3 things like that.

4
5 So it's -- I do appreciate it as well.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. No
10 comments.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: No, not at this time.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I would
15 like to say that I want to thank all of you guys for
16 coming and making it because I know it was pretty rough
17 weather in some of the areas that we come from. Hooper
18 Bay was blowing like crazy and cold and I didn't know
19 whether we were going to make it or not but we were
20 lucky enough to be able to get out of Hooper Bay and
21 I'm sure that most of you guys along the Yukon were
22 having the same kind of problems and I want to make
23 sure that I get it on record and thank you all for
24 attending this. As James said, you know, this is
25 really important to us, as far as the subsistence
26 people, the people that live on the subsistence of the
27 land and the reason why we meet in all the different
28 villages is to make sure that we get the concerns of
29 the people that are in the villages about their
30 subsistence resources within their area.

31
32 And one of the reasons why Bob wanted
33 the Council up here was to make sure that some of the
34 concerns that were -- that the people had in Kalskag
35 were heard by this Council because we're the ones that
36 recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board on the
37 concerns that are out here in the villages, and that's
38 our job. Our job is to work for you and to protect
39 your subsistence rights as well as ours. Because every
40 one of us on the Council sitting up here are users of
41 the subsistence resources within our area, and we eat
42 the same foods that you eat no matter what part of
43 Alaska we're from. I've been in all parts of the state
44 of Alaska and everybody that I've ever spent any time
45 with are concerned with our subsistence resources and
46 the uses and loss of them. So I want to thank you
47 people, too, that are here also, to be here and helping
48 us take care of some of these proposals that we have.

49
50 Thank you, very much. Go ahead, ma'am.

1 If you don't need that mic, you could
2 just stand up, for the record, she's got to be
3 recorded. Go on that mic.

4
5 MR. ANDREW: Get on the mic.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don't let that scare
10 you, it's just a piece of wire.

11
12 MS. KERR: Yes, you know, I'm raised up
13 in the old ways where we don't have, you know, liens on
14 our fishing and our hunting and this was really new to
15 me and my family, especially my kids. They were raised
16 up with their uppa (ph) and, you know, when we finally
17 got our book telling us, you know, that certain days we
18 have to hunt and fish, this was something really new to
19 us, is it going to continue?

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was that, I
22 didn't.....

23
24 MS. KERR: You know about the rules of
25 fishing and hunting, the certain days you have to fish,
26 the certain months you have to hunt, you know, I was
27 raised up in the old ways with my dad and we didn't
28 have rules back then about our hunting and fishing,
29 this is really new to me and my family, especially my
30 boys, they were raised up with their uppa and, you
31 know, when they looked at these new regulations that
32 the Fish and Wildlife have they were really shocked,
33 they were really shocked. I would just like to bring
34 that up.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. You
37 know some person, not too long ago told me that, you
38 know, we used to have -- we grew up under the same
39 umbrella, you know, we grew up without regulations and
40 we were able to go out and get whatever we wanted at
41 any time we wanted as long as it was available. Well,
42 those days are gone. Our subsistence resources are now
43 being regulated because somebody has to keep track of
44 them, otherwise, like with the moose moratorium, if we
45 just let everybody keep hunting there with the
46 population that we have within our area, we're not
47 getting smaller, we're getting more and more people and
48 we have just so many resources that we have out there
49 to make sure that everybody that's hungry gets what
50 they want to eat, you know, and that's the reason why

1 the subsistence is under regulations. It's been for a
2 number of years but it really hasn't been out in the
3 public until what's her name, Katie John's case, and
4 that's what really brought up the regulations and some
5 of the regulations that were there that weren't helping
6 us out here as users needed to be worked on and I guess
7 that was one of the reasons that we were formed, to
8 make sure that some of the regulations that are out
9 here go with our traditions even though we don't have
10 all of that in the regulation books. We try to work to
11 make sure that those regulations and those items that
12 you want in your area get into the books and be
13 protected. And that is one of the reasons why
14 regulations in subsistence is more stringent now days,
15 I guess you could say, than in those days when our
16 uppa's and my dad and mother were living and helping
17 themselves to the resources.

18

19 And that's one of the reasons.

20

21 And as far as the fish, fish are
22 concerned, we had a really bad season some years ago
23 where we weren't able to get any fish and that's when
24 the Fish and Game decided to open up the windows where
25 you had certain areas fish and other areas closed.
26 That was to help bring up the -- to make sure that
27 everybody within that area got their subsistence as far
28 as fish were concerned. And we try to do everything we
29 can to make sure that you're not burdened so much out
30 of being able to get your subsistence resources.

31

32 Okay.

33

34 Anybody want to add to that. Go ahead.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. I'm Edgar Hoelscher from Hooper Bay.

40

41 As you know for the past 20 plus years
42 the Goose Management Plan has been set in place within
43 our region, the four species of geese, and we have
44 worked for the benefit of our future users so that, you
45 know, like depletion is one of the main concerns we
46 have in order to work with these -- these agencies we
47 work with for the benefit of our future users and, you
48 know, some have come up, you know, in abundance, some
49 are in the same numbers and we're still working
50 together with them to insure our, you know, younger

1 generation are going to be there to eat what we have
2 been eating.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik).

9

10 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. I'd like to add
11 that the reason why those windows were put in was
12 because so down river people in the Kuskokwim will not
13 get all the fish, that when they close it up some of it
14 will come up here for your and other people on the
15 upper Kuskokwim to harvest so everybody will get a
16 chance to do their subsistence activities.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Boy, I really like that -- it seems like that come
22 forward -- along with that -- part of it, too, is
23 trying to come to some kind of a balance between the
24 old ways and the technology that's there now that came
25 in with Western civilization that people can stretch
26 over and are more effective at catching over much
27 broader areas. But more to the heart of it, the other
28 thing that we have to do in trying to protect the
29 subsistence needs of people is also to get the message
30 that you bring to get the managers and bring it to the
31 decision-makers, you know, the Boards that are over and
32 above these Councils, to recognize that they should be
33 managing to provide for those needs as well. And
34 that's a very, very difficult thing to do sometimes.
35 But that's where the protection should be, is in the
36 management to provide for the subsistence needs and
37 that's really a focus of what we try to do and it's
38 very frustrating sometimes that it seems like they
39 don't listen to us and they defer to people from --
40 that are not even from the state, much less than rural
41 Alaska, holding ideas that everything should be a good
42 big garden of eden, they think of subsistence like
43 their two week camping trip in the fall or going out
44 and walking along the park and taking pictures of the
45 mountains and the animals and they don't think it's
46 right to even kill animals sometimes.

47

48 Anyway, thank you bringing that up.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your

1 question, I hope.

2

3 REPORTER: Lester. Lester.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Oh, the

6 microphone.

7

8 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Nick.

11

12 MR. NICK: There's a couple things I
13 would like to announce, with your permission and also
14 we need to keep in mind that we need to take a break
15 after this shortly to set up a teleconferencing with
16 the others that are interested to listen in and/or
17 participate in this meeting.

18

19 At this point I would like to introduce
20 one person who is very instrumental with his Staff here
21 from lower Kalskag, Father Nick Isaac, originally from
22 Marshall. He is the local pastor here in the Orthodox
23 Church and also tribal administrator for the village.
24 I don't see his assistant, maybe she's in the office
25 standing by for calls from other people who are coming
26 in. Father Nick Isaac. And one other person, I think,
27 are going to be picking up and dropping off people who
28 are going to be traveling out of this village the next
29 two days, through Saturday. Father Nick is very busy
30 with his lenten services in the Orthodox Church. He
31 put some of that aside to help us set up this meeting
32 in this community.

33

34 And also, Sisterhood, I believe there
35 are a couple of Sisterhood members here who are
36 standing by to provide -- well, three Sisterhood, look
37 like, members, to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner
38 whenever it's needed. And then it's probably very
39 crucial for them to begin signing up if you want to eat
40 lunch so they'll have an idea how much to cook for
41 lunch. And for dinner, they are also -- I understand
42 they are also ready to cook dinner, I'm not sure what
43 kind of dinner it will be but, you know, we appreciate
44 what they did last night.

45

46 And I also noticed that there are
47 several people who arrived here, and people in the
48 audience, and so maybe before you break it would be --
49 I would recommend it might be appropriate that
50 introductions in place.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Nick, you have a
4 tendency to read my mind, I was just thinking about
5 that. That wasn't on the agenda and that was the next
6 thing I was going to do since -- I'll suspend the rules
7 to have introductions, but that should be on our agenda
8 at every meeting, if you would take that and remember
9 that, that'd be good.

10

11 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I apologize
12 for overlooking that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we'll start from
15 the top and work down all the way over and get
16 introductions. Please.

17

18 MR. EASTLAND: Good morning. My name
19 is Warren Eastland. I'm the wildlife biologist with
20 the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm very pleased to be
21 here in Kalskag and very pleased to be able to hear
22 your deliberations.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
27 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of
28 Fairbanks, and I'll be presenting to the Council the
29 2008 run outlook for the Yukon River salmon fishing
30 season.

31

32 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Can you guys
33 come down and use the mic please.

34

35 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
36 My name is George Pappas. I am a fisheries biologist
37 for Commercial Fisheries and Sportfisheries for the
38 Department of Fish and Game and I am on the liaison
39 team. I'll also be sitting in for the game biologist
40 from Bethel. I understand he's about to calve -- his
41 wife's about to calve here pretty soon so he couldn't
42 make it. Thank you very much for the invitation to
43 attend this meeting.

44

45 MR. EVAN: Yeah, my name is Paul Evan,
46 Jr., I'm the water sewer operator. I'm also a Council
47 member for the city. And I'm glad that you guys are
48 all here.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Father.
2
3 FATHER NICK: Good morning. I'm Father
4 Nick Isaac. I've been living here since 2003 and a
5 couple years ago I'd like to mention that when we were
6 having a meeting, I said I'm not from here, but an
7 elderly lady told me that I've been living here so I'm
8 from here. So at this time I'd like to welcome
9 everyone.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Father.
14
15 MR. LITTLEFISH: Good morning, my
16 name's Moses Littlefish. I'm from here Lower Kalskag,
17 just last month I came back from Oregon after I was
18 visiting my kids for three years. I'm a former Refuge
19 Information Technician out of Bethel. I worked there
20 for seven and a half years, '91 to '97. And I'm glad
21 that you guys came out.
22
23 Quyana.
24
25 MS. PETRIVELLI: My name is Pat
26 Petrivelli and I'm an anthropologist with the Bureau of
27 Indian Affairs. Thank you.
28
29 MS. MICHAELSON: Good morning. I'm
30 Bolossa Michaelson from Upper Kalskag and I'm part of
31 the Sisterhood, and I'm grateful for you guys to come
32 and I hope you guys enjoyed a good supper yesterday so
33 we just do as the best as we can.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.
36
37 MR. KERR: Yes, good morning, members,
38 Board members. My name is Jeff Kerr. I live in Upper
39 Kalskag. I've been a resident for almost 30 years
40 here. I've lived in lower and upper Kalskag both. I
41 have a lot of relatives down here and I'm just here to
42 listen in on what you have to say.
43
44 Thank you, for being here. You are
45 welcome.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
48
49 MR. BUKLIS: Good morning. My name is
50 Larry Buklis. I'm with the Office of Subsistence

1 Management. I'm a biologist and now an administrator
2 for the Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence Program.
3 And I've been in Alaska about 32 years and over 20 with
4 Alaska Fish and Game. In those 20 years I worked a lot
5 of years on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim but my work now
6 is with Subsistence Management statewide for Fish and
7 Wildlife.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry.

10

11 MS. WISE: Good morning. My name is
12 Catherine I. Wise. I have been here 15 years. I'm
13 part of Sisterhood. Welcome Board members.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And she's
16 also my mamma away from home.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MS. KERR: Good morning. My name is
21 Adrian Kerr. I'm part of the Sisterhood. I'd just
22 like to welcome you guys.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
25 And then from over there, starting with my An'anaq,
26 could you introduce yourself, please.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik). I was born
29 on the Kuskokwim. I have relatives from the Crow
30 Village. My ancestral home, which is about 15 miles up
31 the river. And I'm glad to be back where my ancestors
32 used to trap and I am very happy to be here. I have a
33 sister-in-law here. My husband has a step-brother, his
34 name is Nick Sergie and I'm staying with them and I'm
35 glad to be here.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, Greg Roczicka.
38 I'm from Bethel.

39

40 (In Yup'ik)

41

42 MR. ANDREW: My name is John Andrew,
43 I'm from Kwethluk.

44

45 (In Yup'ik)

46

47 I'm very happy to be here and my hosts
48 are Andrea and Niles Kamera (ph). Quyana.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My name is Lester

1 Wilde. I'm from Hooper Bay. My name is (In Yup'ik).
2 I'm proud to be Yup'ik born. I was born in Hooper Bay.
3 I was raised all over the state of Alaska and parts of
4 the United States and finally came back to Hooper Bay
5 not too long ago so I'm back home.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. HOELSCHER: Good morning. I'm
10 Edgar Hoelscher. I'm from Hooper Bay. Born and raised
11 there and taught by my brother and father how to be a
12 traditional and customary subsistence user and I'm
13 proud of it and I'm teaching it to my sons and my
14 relatives also.

15

16 MR. ONEY: Good morning everyone. My
17 name is Raymond Oney. I was born and raised in
18 Marshall. Also like Father Nick, but I've moved down
19 to Alakanuk, I've been living there for the last 30
20 years, and I do have relatives here in Kalskag also.
21 I'm glad to be here.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. CHARLES: My name is James Charles.

26

27 (In Yup'ik)

28

29 I live at the mouth of Kuskokwim, down
30 at Tuntutuliak, you see where Tuntutuliak is so I'm
31 fish interceptor for Kuskokwim.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. CHARLES: I work with -- I'm Lower
36 Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Chairman, working
37 group member, Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
38 member.

39

40 (In Yup'ik)

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. NICK: My name is Alex Nick. I'm
45 originally from old village of Ohagmiut and Russian
46 Mission, Marshall, I lived in those communities and in
47 Bethel. I'm more fluent in Yup'ik than I am in English
48 because I never spoke English until I was over 15 years
49 old. I am the Council coordinator for this Council. I
50 used to be a Refuge Information Technician for the U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service and then I was promoted to
2 assistant interpreter at the Refuge. And temporarily I
3 was also promoted to interpreter at the Yukon-Delta
4 National Wildlife Refuge. And then this job was
5 advertised, I applied for it and actually I was
6 promoted temporarily to the -- rather interpreter and I
7 applied for two jobs for the interpreter position and
8 also for this position, and this position -- or rather
9 OSM, Office of Subsistence Management offered me this
10 job so I took it and then about two weeks later Refuge
11 offered me the position that I applied for at YK-Delta
12 Refuge. I told them that I choose this one because
13 I've already gone too far in training. So here I am
14 and I do the very best I can to do what I'm supposed to
15 be doing.

16

17 I do have relatives here in Kalskag.
18 And the young ladies that you heard here are all of my
19 relatives.

20

21 Father Nick, who just left, is my first
22 cousin. His mother was my mother's sister. And also
23 Adrian's mother is also my cousin. So I have a lot of
24 relatives so I have to watch what I'm doing here.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

31

32 MR. HOELSCHER: Tina first.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could we just wait
35 until Tina gets done, Tina, please.

36

37 REPORTER: My name is Tina. I'm the
38 court reporter. And I was born in Anchorage, where
39 I've lived all my life.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tina. Now,
42 (In Yup'ik) go ahead.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'd like to teach
45 somebody that may not know what Fish and Wildlife, and
46 the difference between Fish and Wildlife and Fish and
47 Game. Whenever you hear Department of Fish and Game,
48 they're the Federal people.

49

50 MR. ROCZICKA: The other way, the

1 State.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: And the Fish and Game is
4 usually the State. So they're not the same thing,
5 they're two different things.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And we're the ones
8 that work with the Federal Fish and Wildlife.

9

10 Okay, next we'll have a break. There's
11 a sign up sheet for all our guests over there, if you
12 want to sign in, please. At this time we'll be going
13 into -- before the break I want to mention this, we'll
14 go into break directly after this, we'll be going into
15 the 2008/2010 Federal subsistence wildlife proposals
16 for Council review. If anybody wants to testify over
17 here, make sure that you come up here and sign up and
18 get a blue sheet, this one, and turn it into Alex, Alex
19 Nick.

20

21 The way we're going to do our
22 presentation procedures for the proposals will be as
23 follows:

24

25 First we'll introduce the proposal and
26 have the analysis of the proposal.

27

28 Then we'll hear from the Department of
29 Fish and Game for comments.

30

31 And then we'll hear from the Federal,
32 State and the tribal agencies for
33 comments on that proposal.

34

35 And then we'll have the InterAgency
36 Staff Committee comments.

37

38 Then we'll listen to the Fish and Game
39 Local Advisory Committees for their
40 comments, in support of or not for the
41 proposal.

42

43 Then we'll have summary -- ask for the
44 summary of written public comments.

45

46 Then we'll also ask for public
47 testimony for that proposal that we're
48 working on.

49

50 Regional Advisory comments,

1 deliberation, recommendations and
2 justifications.

3
4 That's how it works in all our
5 procedures for proposals. So if any of you want to
6 testify on any one of those proposals, make sure you
7 get this. And at this time, since we got to set up for
8 some electronic stuff here, we'll take a 15 minute
9 break. 15 minute break.

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: The first item on the
16 agenda is about the wolf hunt so.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was that?

19
20 MS. GREGORY: It's about that wolf, the
21 first item on the agenda, wolf.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, the first
24 proposal will be on to extend the wolf season and
25 increase the limit to 10 days per day -- 10 per day and
26 remove restrictions on destroying dens. That will be
27 the first proposal we'll be working on.

28
29 At this time we'll take a 15 minute
30 break for set up.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The time is now 10:32.
37 We have some new guests that just came in, could you
38 new guests please introduce yourself so everybody will
39 know who we are.

40
41 MR. ANDREW: Come down on the
42 microphone.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You'll need to come
45 and put it on the record.

46
47 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Chairman
48 Wilde. My name is Robert Sundown. And I'm a
49 subsistence resource specialist with the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service in Bethel.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
2
3 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair. Council. I'm
4 Hollis Twitchell, assistant manager for Yukon-Delta
5 Refuge.
6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chair and Council. I'm
8 Tom Doolittle. I'm the supervisory wildlife biologist
9 for the Refuge.
10
11 MR. ANDREW: Good morning. Timothy
12 Andrew with AVCP, director of Natural Resources.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome.
15
16 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. I'm
17 Jennifer Hooper with AVCP.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jennifer. Anybody
20 else.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did we miss anybody
25 else.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Nick.
32
33 MR. NICK: Yeah, those of you who just
34 arrived, there is a sign up sheet for breakfast, lunch
35 and dinner. And I believe if I did not hear wrong last
36 night during the announcement, breakfast is \$10, I
37 believe -- how much was the lunch?
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm not sure.
40
41 MR. NICK: I'm sorry, I think breakfast
42 is \$8.
43
44 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
45
46 REPORTER: It's written down on the
47 sign up sheet.
48
49 MR. NICK: Oh, it's written down over
50 there, yeah, I think it's \$11 and \$15 for dinner, so

1 those of you who wish to eat lunch and dinner, please
2 sign up so that our hostess will cook up something for
3 us.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other
8 announcements before we go on, Alex.

9

10 MR. NICK: (Shakes head negatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're down to
13 statewide proposal, WP08-01, wolf, to extend season and
14 increase limit to 10 per day and remove restrictions on
15 destroying the dens.

16

17 Larry.

18

19 MR. BUKKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management. Mr.
21 Chairman. I would let you know that we have got the
22 teleconference line set up now and I understand we have
23 Vince Mathews, coordinator for Western and Eastern
24 Interior Councils with OSM on line, and Mr. Pete
25 DeMatteo, wildlife biologist with OSM on line.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome, men on the
28 electronic waves.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Hi Vince. Hi, Mr.
31 DeMatteo. This is Mary Gregory.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you hear us okay,
34 Pete.

35

36 MR. DEMATTEO: Good morning.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome to the
39 meeting.

40

41 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Same to you whoever
44 else is there.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: Vince. Vince.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince. Vince Mathews,
49 are you home. Hello, Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm here, I'm sorry
2 I have an office next to the front desk I had to
3 respond to a public request.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Who
6 else was there, okay, that's it.

7
8 MR. BUKLIS: That was it, Mr. Chairman,
9 thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll have the
12 introduction of the proposal and the analysis, please.

13
14 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 The analysis for this proposal can be found on Page 15
16 in your Council books. While the analysis in the books
17 is quite lengthy, I will focus on the key points in the
18 presentation here.

19
20 Proposal WP08-01 was submitted by ONC
21 of Bethel and it has three related points in the
22 request as we understood it.

23
24 That the closing dates of the wolf
25 hunting and trapping seasons statewide
26 be extended to May 31.

27
28 That the harvest limit be increased to
29 10 wolves per day for April 1 to May
30 31.

31
32 And, third, that any restrictions to
33 disturbing or destroying wolf dens be
34 removed from the regulations.

35
36 The proponent seeks to expand and
37 increase hunting and trapping opportunities on wolf
38 populations statewide in order to provide for more
39 productive moose and caribou populations, which, are
40 important subsistence resources to rural Alaskans
41 throughout the state.

42
43 Mr. Chairman, it was brought to my
44 attention yesterday by Mr. Roczicka that the intent of
45 the proponent was for the proposed regulation to be
46 addressed regionally by each Regional Council across
47 the state and not necessarily to presume that it would
48 be imposed statewide. However, my assessment is that
49 that would not change the OSM preliminary conclusion.
50 The hurdle to this proposal in either form remains that

1 the Federal Subsistence Board not having -- having a
2 policy of not implementing predator control, but let me
3 go on with my intended key points.

4

5 The proponent states that the
6 reinstatement of historic wolf control activities will
7 help to, "promote and maintain more productive moose or
8 caribou populations that are highly important as basic
9 subsistence food resources in rural Alaska."

10

11 The goal of the proposal is to provide
12 adequate and sustainable harvest levels of moose and
13 caribou. As described in the policy of the Board
14 relative to predator control, the Board administers the
15 subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on
16 Federal public lands through regulations that provide
17 for the non-wasteful harvest of fish and wildlife by
18 Federally qualified rural residents.

19

20 The policy goes on to note that
21 wildlife management activities on Federal public lands,
22 other than for the subsistence take and use of fish and
23 wildlife such as predator control and habitat
24 management are actually the responsibility of and
25 remain within the authority of the individual land
26 management agencies.

27

28 So the main point to be made here is
29 the Federal Board does have a policy on predator
30 control. I brought copies if Council members would
31 like to have a copy, and I could hand those out, but
32 the main point is that the Board, as a Board does not
33 engage in predator control actions, but it rests with
34 the land managers, who are part of the Board; Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, BLM, Forest Service, et cetera.

36

37 Given that the proponent of Proposal
38 WP08-01 request expanded wolf harvesting opportunities
39 to promote and maintain more productive moose and
40 caribou populations, this proposal would fall outside
41 of the purview of our Federal Subsistence Board, but as
42 I said, would rest with the Federal land management
43 agencies working with the State of Alaska.

44

45 So, Mr. Chairman, the OSM's preliminary
46 conclusion is to oppose the proposal.

47

48 And I can hand out copies of the policy
49 if you'd like. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
2 questions.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done?
7
8 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, yes, that
9 concludes the overview.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
12 Larry.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any questions
17 from the Council.
18
19 Okay, go ahead, you got a question for
20 him.
21
22 MR. LITTLEFISH: Moses Littlefish,
23 Lower Kalskag resident. I was wondering is hunting of
24 10 wolves per day from April 1 to Mary 31st, during the
25 year, every year.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proponent. There's a
28 question for you Larry.
29
30 MR. LITTLEFISH: How come just two
31 months instead of during winter. As far as I know I've
32 been hearing about wolves here in both villages, upper
33 and lower Kalskag in the village, and it's getting
34 pretty scary for our kids, is there any way that we can
35 -- just add during winter.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, the
38 regulation.....
39
40 MR. LITTLEFISH: It's very short -- now
41 to May 31st.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you addressing the
44 proposal -- go ahead, Larry.
45
46 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 do understand the question to be. The focus of the
48 question is on that April 1st to May 31st, 10 wolves
49 per day, part of the proposal, and as I understand it,
50 that is an extended part of the season and it would be

1 10 wolves per day during that extended period.
2
3 But everything we're talking about just
4 now is on top of the season that is in place.
5
6 MR. LITTLEFISH: Oh.
7
8 MR. BUKLIS: So if you look on
9 Page.....
10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: 19.
12
13 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. Beginning on
14 Page 19 in the book, it shows how the regulation would
15 change. So for example, in Units 1 and three to five
16 -- I know that's a different part of the state, but for
17 example that's where it starts. Currently it's August
18 1st to April 30th, five wolves per day. This new
19 regulation, if it passed, would be August 1st to March
20 31st, five wolves per day, but then that April 1st to
21 May 31st season would be 10 wolves per day, so it'd be
22 on top of the existing regulations that begin in the
23 late summer. Do you see how that works. And so we can
24 go down the list and look at look at units that are
25 closer to your interests.
26
27 MR. LITTLEFISH: Nineteen.
28
29 MR. BUKLIS: So here, Unit 19, Unit 18.
30
31 MR. LITTLEFISH: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. BUKLIS: So those are the areas
34 you're more interested in and you can see similarly it
35 has an August to April season now and it would be an
36 August to March season of five wolves per day, and then
37 this April/May period would go up to 10 a day.
38
39 MR. LITTLEFISH: Yeah, one thing I
40 don't like is that August 10 is still summertime, you
41 know, the color varies when somebody decides to sell a
42 fur, it can cost less -- I think it would be better
43 from October 1st to March 31st for the furbearers.
44
45 That's all I have, thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
48 comments. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game --
49 I'm sorry Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game.....
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE:let's get this
4 correct -- I put on my glasses it says Fish and Game.

5

6 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Department of Fish and Game. I want to see if I have
8 any Staff on line here. Do we have any State employees
9 on line there, Terry or Bethel.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, we only have Pete
12 DeMatteo and Vince Mathews.

13

14 MR. PAPPAS: Okay, I'll have to correct
15 that. When I get a chance I'll go find some folks and
16 make sure they dial in because I specialize in
17 fisheries. I'm pinch-hitting here.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's fine.

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: The comments for the
22 Department are on Page 28. And I would like to read
23 them into the record. Also what we're doing statewide,
24 as suggested by Mr. Fleagle, the Chair of the Federal
25 Subsistence Board, is asking the court reporter to
26 incorporate our comments into the electronic
27 transcripts so in the future people can reference them
28 on line. So that's what Mr. Fleagle wanted. It works
29 well and then we try to summarize our comments to
30 shorten it up for you.

31

32 Unfortunately since I am not the
33 wildlife biologist I will have to run through this, if
34 that's okay with you, sir.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's okay.

37

38 MR. PAPPAS: Okay Wildlife Proposal
39 WP08-01 was submitted to liberalize wolf harvest
40 regulations statewide.

41

42 This statewide proposal would extend
43 the wolf hunting and trapping season by moving the
44 closure date to May 31st; increase the hunting bag
45 limit to 10 wolves per day during the period from April
46 1 to May 31; and delete any restrictions to disturbing
47 or destroying a den.

48

49 Adoption of this proposal would: (1)
50 provide additional time and a methods for Federally-

1 qualified subsistence users to hunt and trap wolves on
2 Federal lands in spring; (2) substantially increase the
3 harvest limit in some areas for wolves taken under
4 Federal subsistence hunting regulations on Federal
5 lands; and (3) authorize dens on Federal lands to be
6 disturbed or destroyed for the purposes of harvesting
7 wolves. These liberalizations would create wolf
8 management and conservation issues in some areas that
9 would likely result in reduced subsistence
10 opportunities for wolf harvest long term.

11
12 State hunting regulations allow harvest
13 of wolves in May and/or authorize a bag limit of 10
14 wolves per day in some units where the wolf populations
15 can sustain these harvests. State regulations do not
16 authorize dens to be disturbed or destroyed.

17
18 Any element in this proposal, season
19 extension, increased harvest limits, disturbing dens,
20 or destroying dens could result in overharvest of
21 wolves and create conservation concerns in some areas.
22 In southeast Alaska, for example, increased harvests
23 would likely lead to wolves being listed on threatened
24 or endangered. The poor pelt quality of wolves taken
25 in spring in most areas reduces their value for
26 subsistence uses.

27
28 No evidence is presented indicating
29 that the proposed changes are needed to provide for
30 continuation of subsistence uses of wolves by
31 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Similar
32 proposals to manipulate predator populations that
33 benefit prey populations were submitted to and rejected
34 by, the Federal Subsistence Board in 2005 and 2006.

35
36 The proponent desires that each Federal
37 land management agency take action to facilitate active
38 predator management on Federal units. The State of
39 Alaska is actively engaged in intensive management of
40 wolves in some areas of the state in order to restore
41 healthy prey populations, but Federal land management
42 policies limit the effectiveness of State efforts. The
43 State would welcome opportunities to work with the
44 proponents to encourage Federal land managers to
45 reevaluate the land management policies that limit
46 State's active management tools on most Federal lands.

47
48 The State oppose this proposal but
49 supports the Councils interest in encouraging
50 cooperation between the Federal land management

1 agencies and the State to allow active management of
2 predators.

3

4 That concludes the comments, sir.

5

6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

7 Comments:

8

9 Wildlife Proposal WP08-01:

10

11 Liberalize wolf harvest regulations

12 statewide.

13

14 Introduction:

15

16 This statewide proposal would extend
17 the wolf hunting and trapping season by moving the date
18 to May 31; increase the hunting bag limit to 10 wolves
19 per day during the period from April 1 to May 31; and
20 delete any restrictions to disturbing or destroying a
21 den.

22

23 Impact on Subsistence Users:

24

25 Adoption of this proposal would: (1)
26 provide additional time and methods for Federally-
27 qualified subsistence users to hunt and trap wolves on
28 Federal lands in spring; (2) substantially increase the
29 harvest limit in some areas for wolves taken under
30 Federal subsistence hunting regulations on Federal
31 lands; and (3) authorize dens on Federal lands to be
32 disturbed or destroyed for the purpose of harvesting
33 wolves. These liberalizations would create wolf
34 management and conservation issues in some areas that
35 would likely result in reduced subsistence
36 opportunities to harvest wolves in the long term.

37

38 Opportunity Provided by the State:

39

40 State hunting regulations allow harvest
41 of wolves in May and/or authorize a bag limit of 10
42 wolves per day in some units where the wolf populations
43 can sustain these harvests. State regulations do not
44 authorize dens to be disturbed or destroyed.

45

46 Conservation Issues:

47

48 Any element in this proposal -- season
49 extension, increased harvest limit, or
50 disturbing/destroying dens -- could result in

1 over-harvest of wolves and create conservation concerns
2 in some areas. In southeast Alaska, for example,
3 increased harvests could lead to wolves being listed as
4 threatened or endangered. The poor pelt quality of
5 wolves taken in spring in most areas reduces their
6 value for subsistence uses.

7

8

Enforcement Issues:

9

10

Differences in Federal and State
11 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
12 create enforcement issues in areas with mixed land
13 ownership.

14

15

Other Comments:

16

17

No evidence is presented indicating
18 that the proposed changes are needed to provide for the
19 continuation of subsistence uses of wolves by
20 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Similar
21 proposals to manipulate predator populations that
22 benefit prey populations were submitted to, and
23 rejected by, the Federal Subsistence Board in 2005 and
24 2006 for the following reasons: (1) the Federal
25 Subsistence Board and the Department of Fish and Game
26 were concerned that extending the season statewide when
27 wolves have pups at the den site is contrary to sound
28 wildlife management principles; (2) The Federal
29 Subsistence Board and Department of Fish and Game noted
30 that hides of wolves taken in May are not prime and are
31 of low value for making clothing and handicrafts; and
32 (3) the Federal Subsistence Board reiterated that its
33 policy adopted in 2004 is to not promulgate regulations
34 specifically for predator control.

35

36

The proponent desires that each Federal
37 land management agency take action to facilitate active
38 predator management on Federal units. The State of
39 Alaska is actively engaged in intensive management of
40 wolves in some areas of the state in order to restore
41 healthy prey populations, but Federal land management
42 policies limit the effectiveness of State efforts. The
43 State would welcome opportunities to work with the
44 proponents to encourage Federal land managers to
45 reevaluate their land management policies that limit
46 the State's active management tools on most Federal
47 lands.

48

49

Recommendation:

50

1 Oppose the proposal but support the
2 Council(s) interest in encouraging cooperation between
3 the Federal land management agencies and the State to
4 allow active management of predators.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
7 questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

12
13 MR. PAPPAS: I'll see if I can't get a
14 few folks on line. Thank you, sir.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
17 any Federal, State or tribal agency comments.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody -- nobody
22 here. InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

23
24 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
25 Buklis with OSM. And I serve as the Chair of the
26 InterAgency Staff Committee. We do not have any
27 prepared comments for any of the proposals before you
28 this week so you can probably skip over that call for
29 comments on each of the proposals.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You have been struck.

34
35 Greg.

36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Just a quick, I perhaps should have asked earlier under
39 the Staff analysis, but the InterAgency, essentially
40 kind of serves the same function, I think, in my mind.

41
42 But did you address under the predator
43 management policy and its application, the second half
44 of this proposal that requests the assistance of the
45 Federal Subsistence Board or its endorsement to help
46 move this forward to the land management agencies and
47 creating management plans within their respective
48 conservation units to provide for amounts necessary for
49 subsistence.

50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We are in
2 the analysis stage of this proposal and once the Board
3 acts on the proposal, the Board can then go on to take
4 further action with the land management agencies. So
5 at this point in the process we have not done that.
6 It's a point well noted that the analysis perhaps
7 should make note of that aspect so that as we present
8 the analysis in the subsequent stages of this process,
9 the Board is aware of that part of the proposal. So we
10 can add that point in, make note of that request for
11 the Board to bring it to the attention of the land
12 managers. I'll make a note of that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, I guess I'd just
17 make a note of this for the record because it was
18 brought to my attention at the Board of Game meeting in
19 Fairbanks where I had occasion to meet with the
20 Chairman of the Western Interior Council, and since
21 that was not brought forward he was not even aware that
22 that was even a part of the proposal and the proposal,
23 in its body, was not put into the book, and for some
24 folks they may look for that to be there. But when I
25 asked him about it he got this entirely puzzled look
26 on his face and asked me what I was talking about.

27

28 So essentially what's happened here is
29 the Regional Councils not being aware of it, have not
30 weighed in and this may be more appropriate up under
31 later deliberations, but also that point that he raised
32 earlier, of the missing number 4 criteria, that was
33 actually number 1 at the top of the proposal that went
34 in and should have at least been in the books; that,
35 you know, it was subject to the review and
36 recommendation approval of the Regional Councils in
37 their respective areas, that also he was totally
38 unaware of and not brought to their attention. So the
39 Regional Councils have not looked at that in this
40 context.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comment.

43

44 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. As I
45 reported in my overview of the analysis, Mr. Roczicka
46 did make that point with me yesterday and today that we
47 may have missed that point about the regional approach
48 to the request, and the analysis has a statewide
49 emphasis to it. But as I said in my opening comments,
50 in my view that would not change the conclusion because

1 the request for predator control, whether it was
2 regionalized or statewide, would not be consistent with
3 the Board's policy.

4
5 The aspect Mr. Roczicka makes now as
6 well about the Board, at least, bringing it to the
7 attention of the land managers who make up the Board is
8 a point we can bring out in the analysis in these
9 further steps in the process.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
12 comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry.
17 Fish and Game local advisory comments.

18
19 James.

20
21 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 We have not have our recent meeting but our last
23 meeting as lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory
24 Committee meeting was in October and we did not have
25 this proposal at that time, but there was the wolverine
26 proposal, but not the wolf. So no comment.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Summary of
29 written public comments, Alex.

30
31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. On Page 30 of
32 your book is the summary of written public comments.
33 To my knowledge we received one summary and it's to
34 oppose the proposal.

35
36 Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And that was from?

39
40 MR. NICK: And that was submitted by
41 Defender's of Wildlife, Alaska Wildlife Alliance and
42 the Center for the Environment, I believe.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public
45 testimony on Proposal 1, on Proposal WP08-01, is there
46 any public comments.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'll assume that there

1 isn't any. Now, it's our turn to go to work, regional
2 advisors, deliberation, recommendation and
3 justification.

4
5 Greg.

6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'd move
8 to adopt for discussion.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion has been made
11 to adopt, do I hear a second.

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second. Discussion.
16 Greg.

17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 As drafted and analyzed by the Office of Subsistence
20 Management I would vote to reject this proposal as
21 well. However, missing that main point that was put
22 out as a main structure in which the Advisory
23 Committees across the state -- or Advisory Councils
24 across the state did not address and I believe might
25 change the way they look at it, not having it brought
26 forward, I'd almost view it as an amended proposal of
27 what we have in front of us.

28
29 It just doesn't address the intent the
30 proposal as it was submitted. It was drafted with
31 specific knowledge that it would be viewed as a
32 predator management proposal and was put together to
33 take into consideration that policy, and which it
34 states specifically, that where predators have been
35 determined to be a major contributing factor and
36 significant reduction of ungulate populations important
37 for subsistence use, the Board will endorse timely,
38 affirmative and effective action consistent with each
39 respective agency's policies and management objectives.
40 And it says, will provide appropriate support where
41 necessary to insure the continuation of subsistence
42 harvest opportunities.

43
44 This issue is really getting to the
45 heart of where the Board can choose to assert itself in
46 providing for subsistence needs across the state. It's
47 been repeatedly addressed over and over and over and
48 over again, and brought forward that this is something
49 that they need to address. And, granted, they don't
50 have the actual management authority per se, or have

1 chosen to interpret that they don't have that
2 management authority, I believe they could assert such
3 if they had the guts to do it, but have, instead,
4 appear to be moving to avoid that responsibility where
5 necessary, it becomes increasingly disturbing to me and
6 many others, that what is evolving under this system is
7 the application of the National Park Service policy to
8 subsistence management across the state. There's a
9 lengthy dissertation here from the Alaska Law Review
10 that was put together by a couple professors and people
11 with many letters after their names, regarding the
12 matter, and although it's specifically put together to
13 address the National Park Service, sprinkled throughout
14 you see references to the other service agencies and
15 specifically the wildlife Refuges, or the Fish and
16 Wildlife Service and the Refuge system.

17
18 The Refuge system, as it's been -- and
19 ANILCA, as a whole, that included those Refuges and
20 tripled or quadrupled or how many hundred time added to
21 the Refuge system across the United States when it was
22 put into place, those Refuges were put into place and
23 accepted by the people and used as a major driving
24 factor to protect subsistence and to not include that
25 or to say that they're there to protect subsistence,
26 but we're just only going to deal with the human
27 harvest and we're not going to deal with the management
28 aspect of it is wrong.

29
30 There's been another -- when you look
31 into where the Refuge is created, there's this, what I
32 call weasel words many times, and whether it be a
33 treaty or a Federal law of any sort, and in this case
34 they say it's to manage for the natural diversity,
35 which is essentially in the worst case you could say it
36 goes back to the old feast or famine and that you're
37 not going to manage populations for that, however, if
38 you look in the Congressional record, the day before
39 ANILCA was passed at the 126 Congress, when they were
40 dealing with HR-139 [sic] that was the bill that was
41 before it, and I just want to read this into the
42 record; it says:

43
44 Mr. President. Title VIII of the
45 amendment to House Rule 39 which was
46 negotiated with Senator Tongass and
47 which was recently adopted by the House
48 of Representatives contains some new
49 language which has never before
50 appeared in any of the many

1 incarnations of House Bill 39, which
2 have been considered by the Congress
3 over the past four years.

4
5 Sections. 302 and .303 of Title III
6 designate as a major purpose of each
7 new or expanding Refuge conservation of
8 fish and wildlife population and
9 habitats in their natural diversity.

10
11 And then it goes on to say:

12
13 The phrase in their natural diversity
14 was included in each subsection of
15 these two sections to emphasize the
16 importance of maintaining the flora and
17 fauna, that's the animals and plants
18 for people who don't know the Latin,
19 within each Refuge in a healthy
20 condition. The term is not intended to
21 in any way to restrict the authority of
22 the Fish and Wildlife Service to
23 manipulate habitat for the benefit of
24 fish and wildlife populations within a
25 Refuge, or for the benefit or the use
26 of such populations by man as part of
27 the balanced management program
28 mandated by the Alaska National
29 Interests Conservation Act and other
30 applicable law.

31
32 So there's definitely the direct
33 statement that the animal populations is appropriate to
34 be managed and contained within ANILCA is that whole
35 Title VIII which is direct to providing for subsistence
36 needs and for the Federal Board to continue to take
37 this hand's off approach, granted they don't have --
38 again, they're saying they don't have the authority,
39 but they can direct each of their member management
40 agencies, that this is how we want you to manage, so
41 come to us -- you need to find a way to do that.
42 Without doing that, I mean what -- without some
43 concerted or assertive action by this -- by the Federal
44 Board, the Office of Subsistence Management or those
45 member management agencies, they're as much in conflict
46 and perhaps even more -- I shouldn't say conflict,
47 they're out of compliance with ANILCA more so than the
48 State is with its Constitutional conflict of not
49 recognizing the rural subsistence priority.
50

1 And they need to step up to the plate
2 here. Who's purposes are the managing for. For the
3 people of those Refuges and the purposes those Refuges
4 were created or for existential values of, whether you
5 want to call them urban, within Alaska, or other value
6 systems that have been imported, it's just -- it's
7 wrong.

8
9 I mean you talk about whether the
10 scientists have it or not, and, again, I'll read
11 another one into the record, this is one of the final
12 conclusions from the National Academy of Sciences that
13 was conducted by the State of Alaska under Governor
14 Knowles and it was a three year study; here's one of
15 their final conclusions, it says:

16
17 Such decisions, and this is specific to
18 predator management.....

19
20 It says:

21
22 Such decisions must be based on a
23 detailed local information that
24 supplements more general biological and
25 social impact data and therefore
26 effective and efficient decision-making
27 needs to be customized by using local
28 and traditional knowledge and targeted
29 to the needs and interests of the local
30 constituencies. The great diversity of
31 human populations in Alaska, the varied
32 uses and perceptions of wildlife and
33 their tremendous variability of the
34 Alaskan environment require, and that's
35 a word, they require that sort of
36 management tailoring.

37
38 Everything is there.

39
40 However, the Federal Subsistence Board,
41 again, by inaction, in this case, and the agencies
42 themselves, in putting such this huge high standard
43 that require predator management activities to undergo
44 nationwide environmental impact study review, that are
45 essentially controlled by interests of people who have
46 no base of perception of what life is like in Bush
47 Alaska, they -- and thinking of them as these vast
48 pristine areas that must be kept in violet and
49 essentially would perhaps view the Native peoples of
50 Alaska as something to be put into a museum in the

1 long-term, that is a result of their actions,
2 regardless of that their good intentions might be.

3
4 So they really, really need to start
5 working towards reversing towards this revolving trend
6 that's now become -- it's 25 years later and we need to
7 look at where we're going to be 25 years from now.

8
9 So the recommendation that I'd have
10 going forward to the Board is that they direct each of
11 their management agencies to come back to them within
12 one year for at least -- at least for moose, for
13 starters, that's the main item of contention here when
14 we're talking predator management, that within one
15 year, each of their management agencies should return
16 to them with a full plan with how they are going to
17 manage their populations to provide for subsistence
18 needs and those amounts necessary that are established
19 in regulation at present or under the Federal system,
20 they call them subsistence use amounts.

21
22 And also direct a letter to the
23 Secretary, strongly stating that this environmental
24 impact study criteria that's been put in place that,
25 again, taking imposed value systems that are totally
26 foreign to real life and providing for subsistence or
27 not understanding of subsistence in Alaska, should be
28 done away with and an environmental assessment, which
29 is something that can be done at the local level by the
30 existing Refuge managers and their staff and it can be
31 done locally, where they know where it's not a
32 conservation concern or whether it is, whether it is or
33 it isn't, those decisions should be made local and they
34 should be made under the environmental assessment and
35 the Board should strongly take that and take that
36 position.

37
38 So that's -- and I believe that the
39 proposal, again, as written as an amended or
40 interpreted by the Staff, did not bring the issue
41 forward to the Regional Councils at that level and,
42 therefore, it hasn't undergone review by the Regional
43 Councils because, again, those that I have spoken to,
44 and I do contact Regional Council members in other
45 areas in other capacities or in sometimes in the
46 capacity of also being on this Council, and it was
47 never brought forward, and if I was to look at this
48 book, without having seen the public review document,
49 I'd vote against this, too, I'd vote to reject it right
50 now.

1 So I guess that would be my soap box
2 for the moment and I'll step down from it.

3
4 And, again, for the record, most people
5 are probably aware that I do work for the organization
6 -- for the tribal council that requested the -- or
7 sponsored this proposal, they did request me to draft
8 this up, and it was a very hard decision to come to
9 because I had to tell them exactly what this was going
10 to mean and where it would go to and where it wouldn't
11 go and it would open a very contentious issue at this
12 level, but their recommendation was that we need to go
13 forward. And I'll say it on the record right now, too,
14 and I'll probably bring it up later under
15 correspondence, but one of the catalysts is the Federal
16 government is now -- or Congress has in front of it
17 legislation under what's called the PAW act, Protect
18 America's Wildlife by a congressman from California,
19 that is directly targeted at stopping predator
20 management in the state of Alaska. And you want to
21 talk about hypocrisy at the very same -- on the very
22 same newspaper, on the front page of that paper when it
23 was put out to the national press, if you look on that
24 same paper, on the same day that he was making that
25 huge announcement to the nation to protect America's
26 fish and wildlife through this act, biologists in
27 Northern California were poisoning an entire lake of
28 fish to kill off all the pike so that they could
29 restock it for the recreational use with trout for
30 people of California. Poisoning an entire lake. If
31 that's not predator management, what is it. But when
32 it comes to Alaska it becomes in a totally different
33 context. It needs to be confronted.

34
35 What is going to be the practical
36 result if they continue down this road is to put the
37 subsistence way of life into the museum and I think
38 many of them look at it that way already.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, for your
43 comments, Mr. Greg. I have a problem with trying to
44 concentrate while being addressed by the people from my
45 back, if you would, Alex, from now on, if you have any
46 concerns about what's going on here, could you make
47 sure you get the attention of the Chair, because we're
48 trying to -- because as a Chair I'm trying to
49 concentrate on what's being said over there and it's
50 very distracting when you come up behind me and

1 whispers in my ear, it makes me lose my train of
2 thought. That's the only request I have, if that's
3 okay.

4

5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'd like to speak
10 to the proposal in front of us, in particular, to the
11 Seward Peninsula Council recommendation, predator
12 control is not part of subsistence management.

13

14 But predator control is very much a
15 part of subsistence management and we've used it as a
16 Yup'ik people before 25 years, since before the Land
17 Claims came, we were the best conservationists in the
18 whole world. We didn't overharvest anything, and we
19 didn't waste any subsistence activities or food and
20 fish and game that we took. And I'd like to prove
21 these guys wrong because we are natural predator
22 controllers to protect our food. We glean them and
23 then our ancestors practiced both predator control and
24 subsistence management with their conservation that
25 they were born with.

26

27 And I'd like to be heard as saying
28 that. We are very conservationists in that, that we
29 don't overharvest our stuff, we only take what we need
30 to use and the wolf population, I was a little girl
31 when the wolf population was so abundant in this area
32 and it was a scary time, and I want to speak to that
33 gentleman's comment awhile ago because he's scared
34 about the kids might be attacked by the wolves. When
35 there's game, the wolves follow their food. All the
36 animals, we do. Yup'iks follow their food, too. We
37 live by the rivers where we can get our fish and so
38 does the animals.

39

40 And then I'd like to support this
41 proposal, even though it sounds backwards to some
42 people, but my way and the other people's way always
43 clash because we have different ethnic groups that have
44 different ways of doing things, and people need to
45 recognize that. We talk always about keeping the other
46 guy happy or content and we need to -- we need that
47 same courtesy shown to us people.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Any
2 other Council members. James.

3

4 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 We had, lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee meeting back
6 in October and there was a similar proposal on the
7 wolverine -- that was on wolverine, but it was like
8 this wolf proposal to extend the season. But we talk
9 about that for a long time and some -- there was a
10 comment about fur that was no more good in later in the
11 spring on wolverine, so wolf may be the same way. Our
12 trappers, even the season is open, our trappers may not
13 be hunting anymore.

14

15 You remember the beaver season, we have
16 whole year beaver season now and people don't hunt
17 anymore in the springtime or in summertime because fur
18 is no good, too, and the beavers got pups so these
19 wolves may be denning too by the time when this
20 extended season is still open. But people are like
21 that, even the season is open, they quit hunting or
22 trapping, so our trappers may not be even hunting
23 wolves even if we have the season that long because the
24 fur is no more good by that time or the wolves may be
25 denning too.

26

27 Like this -- like Mary said, some
28 organizations oppose it because -- or Seward Peninsula
29 because Federal is not in predator -- subsistence
30 predator -- whatever they call that but that's my
31 comment.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments
36 from the Council. Edgar.

37

38 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. Based on, you know, your findings and
40 effects and et cetera, you know, like what Mr.
41 Littlefish stated, what value is the shedding of the
42 animal, it's just like fox in the springtime and all
43 that and also protection in the villages. Like for
44 example in Marshall, can work with the wildlife
45 officials within our region to control species just
46 like wolf to, you know, protect their village.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Edgar.
49 Anybody else.

50

1 Mr. DeMatteo, you have any comments on
2 what was said here.
3
4 MR. DEMATTEO: No, not at this time.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What did he say, Tina.
7
8 REPORTER: He said, no, not at this
9 time.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.
12 Alex.
13
14 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Something I
15 overlooked, and I should be doing this during the
16 summary of written public comments, the other Council's
17 record of actions.
18
19 On Proposal WP08-01, there are no
20 actions available for Southeast, Southcentral,
21 Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay.
22
23 Western Interior, I'm just going to
24 read off what's there on the record. Western Interior
25 action record shows, poor quality pelts could be seen
26 as predator control contrary to sound principles of
27 wildlife management.
28
29 Seward Peninsula, predator control not
30 part of Federal Subsistence Management Program.
31
32 Northwest Arctic concur with OSM
33 analysis conclusion.
34
35 Eastern Interior, modify to extend
36 season in Eastern Interior to 5/31, late season, take
37 incidental when hunting other species.
38
39 North Slope predator control not part
40 of Federal Subsistence Management Program.
41
42 And that's the extent of the most
43 recent record we have on the other Council actions on
44 this proposal.
45
46 Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. Mr.
49 Buklis.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince or Pete, I don't
4 know who it is.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: I do have an update on
7 the Regional Council recommendations of the other
8 regions if you'd like to hear those.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Vince, we're
11 hearing you loud and clear.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: I'll give you Western
14 Interior and I'll give you Eastern Interior so it
15 references to Council member.....
16
17 REPORTER: Vince, hold on, Alex is in
18 the middle of that.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince, I'm sorry,
21 we'll call for you later, Alex had the floor before
22 you.
23
24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I apologize
25 for misunderstanding the summary sheet. Here are the
26 Council action record that we have.
27
28 For Southeast they opposed the
29 proposal. We don't have any justification available at
30 this time.
31
32 Southcentral they opposed the proposal.
33 We don't have justification at this time.
34
35 Bristol Bay, Kodiak/Aleutians, we don't
36 have a record of that.
37
38 Western Interior Council opposed the
39 proposal and their justification is poor quality pelts
40 could be seen as predator control contrary to sound
41 principles of wildlife management.
42
43 Seward Peninsula opposed the proposal
44 and their justification is predator control not part of
45 the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
46
47 Northwest Arctic Council opposed the
48 proposal and their justification is to concur with OSM
49 analysis conclusion.
50

1 Eastern Interior, support the proposal
2 with modification and their justification is to modify
3 to extend season in season in Eastern Interior to
4 5/31st, late season, take incidental when hunting other
5 species.

6
7 North Slope opposed the proposal and
8 their justification is predator control is not part of
9 Federal Subsistence Management Program.

10
11 And I apologize that I, you know, got
12 mixed up on the sheet, thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we're all human,
15 I guess. Any other comments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Vince, go ahead
20 with your comments now, please.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Alex covered them all
23 except to make it clear -- can you guys hear me well
24 enough?

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we hear you very
27 well.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. To make
30 it clear that Eastern Interior action. They were
31 silent on the part of the proposal about lifting
32 restriction to disturbing or destroying wolf dens. All
33 the rest that Alex shared is that they modified the
34 proposal -- or support the proposal I should say --
35 well, it's a modification, to have the wolf hunting and
36 trapping season extended to May 31st within the Eastern
37 Interior region.

38
39 And that's all I had, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Vince. Did
42 you have -- no -- okay, any further comments from the
43 Council. Greg.

44
45 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, just a minute,
48 I've just called on Greg.

49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Greg says go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: This is Terry Haynes with
5 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks,
6 Division of Wildlife Conservation. I was asked to call
7 in and I've missed most of your discussion but if there
8 were questions that you had for the Department I would
9 sure try to answer them for you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I don't believe
12 -- is there any questions for the Department from the
13 Council.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, not at this time,
18 thank you. Go ahead, Greg.

19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Just to
21 get towards the recommendation of this Council to go
22 forward regarding this proposal, since it was vastly
23 misconstrued or misrepresented albeit maybe
24 unintentionally, that the Regional Councils didn't
25 really get the full picture, you know, especially about
26 the part of them have it apply specifically only in
27 their regions or be subject to their jurisdiction, and
28 also the fact that they did not address at all that
29 second half about moving forward with management plans
30 from the agencies on managing their populations to
31 provide for amounts necessary for the long-term into
32 the future.

33
34 My recommendation would be to amend
35 this proposal or to come back with a recommendation
36 that the Board endorse and actively pursue the second
37 half about each one of those member agencies should
38 create a management plan within the next year, and come
39 back to the Board with it on how they are going to
40 provide for amounts necessary that are existing and on
41 the books. They also, and thank you Mary for bringing
42 it up, they need to develop that written record, the
43 documentation that is stated, if you read through the
44 whole Staff analysis, is lacking at this point in time,
45 customary and traditional activities that perhaps now
46 days may be labeled as predator management or conducive
47 to keeping populations at healthy and abundant levels
48 as much as possible. It gets back to just because it's
49 -- you know if something's not on paper it doesn't
50 exist, well, if they don't have the information there,

1 the Board should be directing their Staff, you go get
2 it and find it out, it's true and lay that down. But
3 getting those management plans together is extremely
4 important.

5
6 Under the predator management policy,
7 the Board does straight out that they'll assist where
8 it's appropriate, well, where is it ever more
9 appropriate than to make sure subsistence needs are met
10 in the future, that's what predator managemene -- manage
11 -- that's what management is about, not just predator
12 management, it's management of anything, whether you're
13 talking about habitat. You know if our fish
14 populations would have been managed the same way as our
15 moose populations, our wildlife populations have been,
16 boy, people would be up screaming and hollering like
17 you wouldn't believe.

18
19 Anyway, I didn't want to get off on to
20 that.

21
22 But as far as the recommendations go,
23 that's the ones that I would give, that they don't kill
24 the whole concept and that they actively get involved
25 in having their management agencies manage and they get
26 involved in the management even though they don't have
27 the authority, they need to start clearing the way
28 rather than stand as an obstacle.

29
30 Right now it could be in place within
31 our area, for what's occurring -- the predator
32 management that's going on in 19A, and our Refuge can't
33 do it because there are people from upstairs or their
34 bosses up the ladder and their semi-military regime
35 from Washington, D.C., say don't touch it. And
36 consistently over and over, it says in all the places,
37 we need to cooperate, well, they're not cooperating,
38 they're being an obstacle.

39
40 And I'd be willing to write that up if
41 we want to table the proposal for now and I can write
42 something up before the meeting is over and have that
43 back in front of us tomorrow.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You'd like to do what?

46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: Write up the
48 recommendation so it would be something in front of for
49 people to look at.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Are you done?
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: To table this propos --
4 I'll move to table at this point.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Move to table the
7 proposal.
8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, sir.
10
11 MS. GREGORY: I'll second the motion.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have a motion to
14 table WP08-01. If there are no objections.
15
16 (No objections)
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections.
19
20 (No objections)
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So ordered. WP08-01
23 has been tabled for this moment.
24
25 But there's one comment I'd like to
26 make, you know, this has not just happened -- this is
27 not the first time this has happened, we've put
28 proposals prior -- prior to this proposal for
29 consideration by the OSM and there are times when they
30 have cut out important portions of those proposals to
31 fit whatever criteria that they're going to -- I wish
32 that in the -- maybe a letter is forthcoming from this
33 Council asking the people that are there, going over
34 these proposals, to at least consult with the proposal
35 maker prior to deleting some of the comments that are
36 written in that proposal because they, at times, have a
37 tendency to cut out the meat and just leave us the
38 bones.
39
40 So we'll go on down to Item WP08-05,
41 brown bear handicrafts. Larry.
42
43 (Pause)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, before you do
46 that, Larry, I'm sorry, I noticed earlier that there
47 was a group of people that came in, all you people that
48 just came in, could you please introduce yourself so we
49 would know -- make sure you come up here and state your
50 name and your organization that you come from.

1 MR. LIEDBERG: I'm Paul Liedberg. I'm
2 the manager for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Welcome.
5
6 MR. BYERSDORF: I'm Geoff Byersdorf.
7 I'm with the Bureau of Land Management out of
8 Anchorage.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
11
12 MR. THALHAUSER: Hello, Mr. Chair.
13 Mike Thalhauser with KNA, the Kuskokwim Native
14 Association.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome.
17
18 MR. SIMEON: Calvin Simeon. I serve as
19 a janitor for KNA.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife
24 biologist with Togiak Refuge in Dillingham.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anybody
27 else we missed.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you all for
32 coming.
33
34 Now, we can go down to WP08-05, brown
35 bear.
36
37 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Larry Buklis again, OSM.
39
40 Mr. Chairman, if I could make a comment
41 on Proposal 01. You were in deliberations so I didn't
42 know your protocol for speaking but if I could clarify
43 a few points for the record.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Buklis.
46
47 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. There was two
48 points I heard and, again, I don't want to engage in
49 debate, but I just wanted to clarify.
50

1 I heard mention of amounts needed for
2 subsistence and subsistence use amounts. The amounts
3 needed for subsistence is a State management system
4 term and we're aware of those numbers but we haven't,
5 as a Federal Program, adopted those numbers, and we use
6 a term called subsistence use amounts and I heard that
7 mentioned today. There was a time when we were trying
8 to work with the State to develop a common
9 understanding about those two terms and how they would
10 be used and further work on that initiative hasn't made
11 progress. So what I'm trying to say is we don't have
12 subsistence use amounts in place in the Federal system.
13 And we're aware of the amounts needed for subsistence
14 system in the State but we haven't adopted those
15 numbers.

16
17 Secondly, I can attest to the fact that
18 the way this proposal 08-01 was analyzed was not with
19 intent to leave something out. You may have had that
20 experience in the past, I don't know that, but I can
21 attest that if something was left out in terms of our
22 interpretation of the request, it was an unintended
23 oversight. And whether there was or wasn't contact
24 with the proponent and whether the contact was
25 effective or not, I can look into that. But there was
26 no intent to cut something out.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
29 clarification. Go ahead.

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 WP08-05, the analysis begins on Page 31 in your books.

33
34 This proposal is a statewide proposal
35 submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
36 It requests removal of all unit specific regulations
37 related to the sale of brown bear handicrafts made of
38 skin, hide, pelt or fur. And that sales of brown bear
39 handicrafts made of claws, bones, teeth, sinew or
40 skulls should occur only between Federally qualified
41 subsistence users.

42
43 So in effect this proposal would expand
44 the coverage of the handicraft regulation but narrow
45 some of the features of it, and I'll go on with a few
46 more comments that may help bring that point out.

47
48 The proponent submitted this proposal
49 in order to refine Federal regulations, which, in its
50 view, allow for "unconstrained commercial sale of

1 handicrafts made from brown bear parts" and create
2 "market incentives for poaching."

3
4 Under current Federal subsistence
5 regulations brown bear fur and claws can only be used
6 to make handicrafts for sale if the bears were
7 harvested from Units in Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay
8 and Southeast Alaska regions. Other parts, such as
9 bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls can only be used in
10 handicrafts for sale from brown bear taken in Southeast
11 Alaska. The proposal would extend the application of
12 the proposed regulation to all units, not just those
13 that approve of it, as it is now, but would narrow
14 sales only to those between Federally qualified rural
15 residents.

16
17 By way of background, between 2002 and
18 2007, the Federal Subsistence Board considered seven
19 proposals regarding the sale of handicrafts made from
20 some of the non-edible parts of bears. Throughout this
21 period, the Board has consistently provided for the
22 sale of handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt,
23 fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew, and skulls of brown
24 bear taken by Federally qualified subsistence users
25 from units where it is considered appropriate.
26 Retaining as a legal practice the use of brown bear
27 claws and other non-edible parts of handicrafts for
28 sale is consistent with previous Board action and with
29 Section .803 of ANILCA. Also it is not expected to
30 significantly increase harvest.

31
32 Finally, no evidence has been found to
33 suggest that current Federal subsistence regulations
34 actually adversely affect brown bear populations, nor
35 that the Federal subsistence regulations have led to an
36 increased illegal or legal harvest of brown bears.

37
38 Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the OSM
39 preliminary recommendation or conclusion is to oppose
40 Proposal WP08-05.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anybody
43 questions for Larry, Council.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry.

48
49 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alaska Department of
2 Fish and Game.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. This is
5 Terry Haynes with the Department of Fish and Game.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

8
9 MR. HAYNES: Our comments on our own
10 proposal are on Pages 42 and 43 of your Council book.

11
12 And Mr. Buklis described the proposal
13 and its intent. The Department has expressed concerns
14 to the Federal Board about the Federal brown bear
15 handicraft regulation and the intent of our proposal is
16 to allow the sales of brown bear handicrafts to
17 continue statewide between Federally qualified
18 subsistence users but to limit the sales of those
19 handicrafts to other people to brown bear fur
20 handicrafts as described in the State regulations, and
21 that doesn't include the claws.

22
23 The Department believes that this will
24 allow for the continuation of brown bear handicrafts as
25 they are needed for ceremonial and cultural purposes
26 but will prevent or discourage brown bears from being
27 harvested illegally and the claws sold because they are
28 a high value item.

29
30 Another concern we have is that selling
31 brown bear handicrafts under the Federal regulations,
32 if the individual, a Federally qualified subsistence
33 user would be selling brown bear handicrafts off of
34 Federal public lands, that individual would be in
35 violation of State law. And so we are concerned about
36 the potential for Federally qualified subsistence users
37 being subjected to prosecution under the State
38 regulations.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

41
42 MR. HAYNES: With that, Mr. Chairman,
43 I'll try to answer questions that Council members might
44 have and I'll just refer you to our written comments in
45 case members have questions about those comments.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
50 comments:

1 Wildlife Proposal WP08-05:

2

3 Change the regulations regarding sale
4 of brown bear handicrafts to allow sales of handicrafts
5 made from brown bear fur in all units and to restrict
6 sales of handicrafts made from claws, bones, teeth or
7 skulls to transactions between Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users.

9

10 Introduction:

11

12 Current Federal regulations allow
13 essentially unconstrained commercial sale of
14 handicrafts made from bear parts taken in some units as
15 a customary and traditional activity, without
16 substantial evidence demonstrating that such sales have
17 ever occurred. The sale of such handicrafts is limited
18 only by an unenforceable provision that prohibits sales
19 constituting a "significant commercial enterprise."
20 The current regulations also allow the purchase of
21 these handicrafts by persons who are not Federally-
22 qualified subsistence users, despite such purchases
23 being prohibited under State law and, as was pointed
24 out in the spring 2006 Federal Subsistence Board
25 meeting, that sales can even occur over the internet.

26

27 Sales of handicrafts made from brown
28 bear claws, teeth, skulls, and bones present a
29 particular problem, because these are potentially high
30 value items, and allowing sales creates market
31 incentives for poaching both in Alaska and other
32 states.

33

34 Black bear handicraft sales, although
35 not customary and traditional, do not create the high
36 level of conservation concern raised by sales of brown
37 bear handicrafts. Similarly, sales of brown bear
38 handicrafts do not raise the same level of concern if
39 limited to the skin or fur as defined in state
40 regulations; and even sales of handicrafts made with
41 claws and teeth do not currently raise extremely high
42 levels of concern if limited to sales among Federally-
43 qualified users.

44

45 Changing the regulation to continue to
46 allow the sale of brown bear fur products to anyone
47 (State allows sale of untanned brown bear hides) while
48 limiting sales of handicrafts made with brown bear
49 claws, teeth, bones and skulls to sales to other
50 Federally-qualified subsistence users should help

1 eliminate commercial markets and the masking of illegal
2 sales in Alaska and elsewhere.

3

4 Unit specific restrictions on sales are
5 almost impossible to enforce without tracking and
6 documentation requirements and are not needed for the
7 lower value fur handicrafts. This proposal will
8 eliminate the unit-specific sale allowances in order to
9 make the regulations more user-friendly and more
10 enforceable.

11

12 Impact on Subsistence Users:

13

14 This proposal will not restrict any
15 customary and traditional activity because sales of
16 brown bear handicrafts are not customary and
17 traditional. The Federal Subsistence Board's current
18 allowance of such sales was not based upon a
19 determination that such sales are customary and
20 traditional but was based upon the Board's unsupported
21 argument that the Board can authorize any use if the
22 take is customary and traditional (see e.g., January 2,
23 2006 letter from Chairman Demientieff to Commissioner
24 Campbell).

25

26 This proposal will continue to allow
27 rural residents to: sell brown bear fur handicrafts to
28 anyone (as allowed under State law); barter brown bear
29 handicrafts with anyone under Federal regulations; and
30 sell brown bear handicrafts to other rural residents
31 under Federal regulations. Therefore, this proposed
32 regulation change will not impair the ability of rural
33 residents or urban Alaska Natives to obtain such
34 handicrafts for ceremonial, religious and cultural
35 purposes.

36

37 Further, adoption of this proposal will
38 significantly reduce the likelihood that Federally-
39 qualified subsistence users will face State prosecution
40 for engaging in sales that are prohibited under State
41 law when they are on State or private lands.

42

43 Opportunity Provided by State:

44

45 Under 5 AAC 92.200, handicrafts made
46 with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of
47 handicrafts made with claws, skulls, teeth, and bones
48 are prohibited. Whole bear skins, with claws attached,
49 taken in certain predator control areas may be sold
50 under 5 AAC 92.031, but only after sealing and under

1 terms of a permit issued for that bear skin.

2

3

Conservation Issues:

4

5

The Federal Subsistence Board created a
6 new market for bear claws and other high value bear
7 parts which likely masks illegal sales, thereby
8 compounding problems with the international trade of
9 endangered species and contributing to the illegal
10 harvest, over-harvest, and waste of bears in other
11 states and countries, as well as Alaska. Markets for
12 high value bear handicrafts create a conservation
13 concern because brown bears are protected under the
14 Endangered Species Act in other states and Mexico, and
15 the origin of brown bear products cannot be determined
16 by visual inspection. Brown bear are also listed on
17 Appendix II of the Convention International Trade of
18 Endangered Species (CITES).

19

20

In Alaska, economic incentives
21 associated with harvesting brown bear to make
22 handicrafts create conservation concerns because brown
23 bears develop slowly and have a low reproductive rate,
24 making small populations extremely susceptible to
25 over-harvest. Allowing a widespread sale of high value
26 bear parts without any kind of tracking mechanism is an
27 invitation to poachers. Further, the existing
28 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
29 sound wildlife management principles.

30

31

Enforcement Issues:

32

33

This proposal will reduce enforcement
34 issues created by the existing Federal regulation in
35 several ways: (1) By limiting the pool of eligible
36 purchasers for high value bear parts, it will
37 significantly reduce the economic incentives for
38 poaching in other states and countries as well as in
39 Alaska. (2) By allowing the sales of brown bear fur
40 handicrafts from any Game Management Unit, as allowed
41 under State law, his proposal will eliminate
42 unenforceable unit-specific sales authorizations in
43 existing regulation. (3) The proposed regulation will
44 reduce the likelihood that Federally-qualified
45 subsistence users will face prosecution for attempting
46 to engage in sales on State or private lands that are
47 prohibited under State law.

48

49

Jurisdiction Issues:

50

1 The Federal Subsistence Board lacks
2 jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts
3 when and where such sales are not customary and
4 traditional. In the past, the Federal Board has
5 rejected this argument, asserting that if any use is
6 customary and traditional, then the Board can authorize
7 any other use. It should be noted that the Board's
8 argument is inconsistent with its litigation stance in
9 the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it argued that
10 "customary and traditional use" is related to "how
11 resources are used after they are taken," and "not to
12 or a prerequisite condition for the taking itself."
13 State v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc. 32 at
14 22.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
17 comments from the Council, questions.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: I have one.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

22
23 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory. I know
24 that especially the black bear, skin is used sometimes
25 to make mukluks and you were saying that a person has
26 to sell it on Federal land and some people, like we,
27 who cannot afford to get those things, some people give
28 them their skins and when they are selling them, what
29 does that do to them?

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you get that
32 question that was asked you?

33
34 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chair. Our
35 concern is with the brown bear handicrafts that would
36 be sold that have the claws attached. We're less
37 concerned, as you'll note in our comments, we don't
38 have the same kind of concern for handicrafts made with
39 black bear fur. And our concern really is with the
40 claws, because they are an item that can sell for a lot
41 of money and we do not -- our comments do not address
42 handicrafts made from fur that are used and not sold,
43 so I don't believe unless the black bear handicrafts
44 included the claws and there was a concern that a lot
45 of black bears were being harvested for their claws and
46 then that created some type of a conservation issue,
47 you know, we would not have a concern about that until
48 there was a conservation issue.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Thank you for clarifying.

1 MR. HAYNES: I don't know if I've
2 answered your question but I'll try again if I didn't.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, thank you for
5 clarification.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. If not,
12 we'll go to the Federal, State and tribal agencies.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Wildlife, any
17 comments.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: AVCP, any comments.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments.
26 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments -- oh, I'm
31 sorry, you said there were no more, okay, I just got to
32 make sure that I cross that out.
33
34 Fish and Game Local Advisory comments.
35 James.
36
37 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Summary
40 of public comments.
41
42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
45
46 MR. NICK: Summary of written comments
47 you said?
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
50

1 MR. NICK: Okay. We received two in
2 opposition of Proposal 05 and those are from Copper
3 River Native Association and AHTNA, Inc.

4
5 The other Council action.

6
7 Southeast Council opposed the proposal,
8 and there was no justification available.

9
10 Southcentral opposed the proposal, no
11 justification available at this time.

12
13 Western Interior Council opposed the
14 proposal and their justification is that no record of
15 abuse, unnecessary restrict -- unnecessary restrict
16 subsistence users.

17
18 Seward Peninsula opposed the proposal
19 and their justification is that predator control not
20 part of the Subsistence Management Program.

21
22 Northwest Arctic opposed the proposal
23 and they concur with OSM analysis conclusion.

24
25 Eastern Interior supported [sic] the
26 proposal with modification, and their justification --
27 Vince can clarify this, no conservation concern and no
28 reported abuse.

29
30 Northwest -- I'm sorry, North Slope RAC
31 opposed the proposal and their justification is that it
32 would be detrimental to subsistence users.

33
34 Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That it.

37
38 MR. NICK: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any public
41 testimony.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council
46 deliberation, recommendation and justification. The
47 Chair will entertain a motion for this -- Greg.

48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I would
50 move to adopt -- or support Proposal 08-05.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
2 to adopt Proposal WP08-05, do I hear a second.
3
4 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by -- do you
7 got it?
8
9 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any discussion,
14 comments. Greg.
15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Just
17 speaking to the motion. I'd vote against supporting
18 this proposal. And I concur essentially with the
19 justification put forward by the Western Interior, you
20 know, that there is no conservation concern here and
21 detriment to subsistence, that it's essentially
22 unnecessary at this point, the abuse hasn't been
23 documented and even though to a fair degree -- I think
24 when we've dealt with this issue in the past we've
25 essentially deferred to other areas where this practice
26 has taken place and more prevalent so I'm going to vote
27 against it so we would be on record.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg.
30 Anybody else.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comment,
35 Council.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we have a motion
40 that's seconded, we need the question.
41
42 MR. CHARLES: Question, Mr. Chairman.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. The
45 question's been called for. Let's get a roll call
46 vote, please, Mr. Secretary.
47
48 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 James Charles.
50

1 MR. CHARLES: No.
2
3 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
4
5 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, no. Edgar
8 Hoelscher.
9
10 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
11
12 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
15
16 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
19
20 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.
21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
23
24 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman, we have four
25 no, and two yes.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, the -- wait,
28 there's supposed to be seven of us.
29
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
31
32 MR. ONEY: Did I miss someone.
33
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I have two yes
35 and five no.
36
37 MS. GREGORY: That's correct.
38
39 MR. ONEY: Okay.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe you could give
42 pointers to our new Secretary, he probably doesn't know
43 how to do his job yet.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
48
49 MR. ONEY: Yes, I got it.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Okay, the
2 motion fails. At this time, we're -- I don't know how
3 soon the Sisterhood wants us to have lunch but I think
4 we're just going to keep on going.
5
6 MR. ANDREW: One more.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll go down to
9 WP08-33 for moose. Introduction.
10
11 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. The analysis
12 of WP08-33 begins in your book on Page.....
13
14 REPORTER: Wait. Wait. Wait.
15
16 MR. DEMATTEO: 46. And Proposal 33 was
17 submitted by.....
18
19 REPORTER: Wait. Wait. Wait. Stop
20 talking Pete.
21
22 MR. DEMATTEO:AVCP and it
23 requests the closure of Federal public lands.....
24
25 MR. BUKLIS: Pete.
26
27 REPORTER: Pete, stop talking.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hello, Pete.
32
33 MR. BUKLIS: Pete.
34
35 MR. DEMATTEO:requests the closed
36 area -- if you look in your book at Page 46.
37
38 REPORTER: Pete. Pete.
39
40 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes.
41
42 REPORTER: Stop talking a minute, okay.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
47
48 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Larry Buklis, OSM. Thank you for calling the proposal
50 forward. But I understand before we move into the

1 regional proposals, which you are now approaching, the
2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff wanted to give you
3 some overview briefing on resource status that will
4 help you in a number of these analysis and reviews.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, I wasn't aware
7 of that so.....

8
9 MR. BUKLIS: So I don't know if
10 you.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE:let's.....

13
14 MR. BUKLIS: That was just brought to
15 our attention today and I don't know whether you want
16 to do that now or after lunch. I think it might have
17 been elsewhere on your agenda but they wanted to move
18 it up to bring it ahead of some of these deliberations.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

21
22 MR. BUKLIS: So they are prepared to
23 speak.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we wanted to get
26 the moose numbers first prior to the proposals.

27
28 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll need a
31 motion from the floor to suspend the rules to get
32 that.....

33
34 MR. HOELSCHER: So moved, Mr. Chairman,
35 to suspend the rules.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
38 to suspend the rules to bring Item 10 up next, do I
39 hear a second.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: Second.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded. All in
46 favor say aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is carried. So
4 we are down to status of lower Yukon moose, we'll get
5 the status of the moose on the Yukon, Kuskokwim and
6 we'll find out how the moose moratorium is going so far
7 on the Kuskokwim. So Staff.

8

9 While they're setting up, you guys
10 might want to take a 10 minute break.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we are down to
17 status of lower Yukon moose numbers, Doug Staller.

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: He's not here. I'm the
20 supervisor, wildlife biologist. Mr. Chair.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I need to apologize,
23 yes, go ahead.

24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, thank you.
26 As the supervisor of wildlife biologist so I'm going to
27 report on some recent information relative to the moose
28 populations at last from two surveys, one from the
29 lower Kuskokwim unit and one from the lowest Yukon
30 unit. Both surveys were done this winter, and actually
31 weather conditions really helped us out in this one so
32 we're quite happy with that.

33

34 As you know it's been a number of years
35 since initial of the lower Kuskokwim unit of a
36 moratorium initiation in 2004. At that particular of
37 time there was an estimate of about 70 moose that were
38 counted. Right now our estimate, if we had comparable
39 methods was 515 animals. If we look at the
40 sightability correction factor which is a more accurate
41 survey method that we've employed this year, that
42 couples with the traditional method that was used, we
43 have about 668 moose estimated in the lower Kuskokwim
44 unit. So it's obviously both within that five year
45 timeframe starting to work towards the management goals
46 and also reaching toward that goal of 1,000 moose.

47

48 So starting out with that it's always a
49 pleasure to actually have good news when we start
50 looking at our moose populations in Unit 18.

1 Our other project is in the lowest part
2 of the Yukon survey area. And that one had around
3 1,320 moose in it and, again, has increased to almost
4 3,300 animals. And I'll go over the specifics. It'll
5 be on Page 3 and I'll go over the briefing document by
6 detail.

7
8 The Refuge and the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game cooperated to conduct density estimate
10 surveys for specific areas of Unit 18. In January 2008
11 surveys were conducted on the lower Kuskokwim River
12 unit from Kalskag to Bethel, which you'll see on Figure
13 1, which is a series of blocks, we choose a number of
14 those blocks randomly and we also previously fly them
15 to determine whether those blocks have higher
16 concentrations or lower concentrations of moose on them
17 before we do the density surveys. The resulting
18 estimate from that particular survey in the lower
19 Kuskokwim unit was 515 moose using the traditional
20 analysis, however, this year we incorporated a
21 sightability correction factor in order to estimate the
22 number of moose missed while flying the survey. The
23 midpoint of the estimate number of the moose with the
24 sightability correction factor, this is a typo, was 668
25 moose, and that's -- you'll see that with the
26 sightability correction factor in Figure 2. When
27 you're mingling around and I encourage the public and
28 anybody here to look at the poster that's there. It
29 shows a survey block, it shows the transect lines that
30 are GPS marked and it shows the sub-block within the
31 block where the sightability correction factor is to
32 see if we've missed any moose in that particular area
33 that we can factor in as a correction factor to our
34 surveys. Also every moose that's sighted, we actually
35 GPS mark the animal so we can look at density estimates
36 in those areas too.

37
38 The moose hunting, this increase,
39 obviously 70 up to 668 animals is a significant
40 increase from the last survey conducted in 2004. The
41 moose hunting moratorium for this area was an act in
42 starting that fall season, the reduced hunting pressure
43 has definitely increased the population and continuing
44 adherence to the moratorium will be a benefit to this
45 population.

46
47 Another thing to keep in mind is that
48 the densities that we found from Kalskag north were
49 about .07 per mile and if you go Tuluksak south past to
50 Bethel, those densities were considerably lower, about

1 .04. I'd like to see the full range of the moose
2 habitat that's available in the lower Kuskokwim unit
3 have moose in it because all suitable habitat right now
4 does not have moose using it, at least, in its winter
5 range. Also those lower population densities that we
6 see from Tuluksak down, I would suggest with a little
7 time that those densities will come up and hopefully in
8 time for the proposed season but, also for the
9 Councils and for the public to consider alternatives to
10 looking at building a population a bit before
11 initiating a harvest.

12
13 In February 2008 we surveyed the lowest
14 Yukon unit along the main river corridor from Mountain
15 Village to Kotlik, the midpoint of the estimated moose
16 population for this area was about 2,828 animals using
17 traditional survey analysis and with the scientific --
18 the sightability correction factor we see 3,320 moose
19 when we incorporated the sightability correction
20 factor. This area is experiencing rapid growth with an
21 annual growth rate of about 27 percent. When we look
22 at the number of calves seen in this particular area
23 essentially about 54 percent of all adult moose had
24 calves hanging around them, which is pretty high, and
25 in the lower Kuskokwim unit, again, during these winter
26 surveys, we saw that it was about 32 but considering
27 you have about a one to one sex ratio down there you
28 could expect almost 60 percent of the adult moose -- I
29 mean 60 percent of those cows had calves.

30
31 During the month of November in 2007
32 when the actual composition counts were conducted in
33 the lower Kuskokwim River from Kalskag down to Bethel
34 and along the Kwethluk River from Elbow Mountain to the
35 village Kwethluk, these areas had a combined ratio of
36 98 bulls per 100 cows and 73 calves per 100 cows.
37 These are very encouraging ratios with very good
38 reproduction.

39
40 Calving data was obtained from collared
41 moose along the Kwethluk River during May and June of
42 2007. 34 out of the possible 39 cows of breeding age
43 gave birth, that's 87 percent. Most moose gave birth
44 by May 22nd, and finished by June 5th, and you'll see
45 that in figures in this package also.

46
47 A total of 52 calves, 14 sets of twins,
48 two sets of triplets and 18 singles were born to 34
49 cows.
50

1 The multiple birth weights twins and
2 triplets was 47 percent, cows with calves were checked
3 again at the end of December 2007 to determine
4 survival. The six month calf survival is 62 percent,
5 cows will be checked again at the end of April 2008 to
6 determine one year survival rates.

7
8 One last note is that when we are doing
9 these moose surveys we also do predator surveys
10 obviously looking for wolf sign and looking and
11 counting wolves. You will see this -- I apologize for
12 not putting numbers on these pages in this document,
13 but it would be on your, one, two, three, four, five,
14 six, seven, eighth page, I believe, or your ninth page.
15 There's observation of wolf science and wolf sign
16 during 2008 moose winter surveys.

17
18 Obviously this is not a wolf population
19 survey for the Delta or for the other moose management
20 units, but I think it would be important to provide
21 this type of information on these moose survey units
22 that are flown so you know what we saw in these units.

23
24 In the Kuskokwim survey unit,
25 approximately 4,262 miles were flown to sample 334.7
26 square miles. One wolf was observed in the sample area
27 and track signs were observed in 452 blocks with no
28 winter kills observed.

29
30 In the lower Yukon unit, approximately
31 3,479 miles were flown to sample 428 square miles. No
32 wolves were observed during the survey and track sign
33 was observed in 4 of 70 blocks. Three winter kills
34 were observed that were associated with wolf track
35 sign. The moose population data included in your
36 packet that was collected on composition and density
37 surveys, as well from the telemetry studies suggest
38 figures, population growth and good herd condition in
39 the lower Kuskokwim and lowest Yukon sampling units.

40
41 Considering the present health of both
42 population samples indicates that predation impacts are
43 not currently an immediate management concern for those
44 two survey blocks that we just looked at.

45
46 So I think that it's good news relative
47 to both of those blocks. And some of the real
48 challenges that are going to be faced in the future,
49 especially on the lowest Yukon section of the herd is
50 making sure that carrying capacities aren't reached

1 with the herd. We've sent our biologists up to meet
2 with Tom Seeton up in Fairbanks to work on brow survey
3 and study plans because really some of the triggers
4 we'd have to look at in some of these areas would be
5 relative to doing brow surveys in some sections.

6

7 And that's about all I have to report
8 on, at least, on those two particular surveys.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
13 questions.

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My An'anaq, and then
20 go ahead, Mary.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Doolittle, on your
23 first paragraph, that sightability correction factor,
24 what does that mean.

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: The sightability
27 correction factor, and at time we could even discuss
28 that more is essentially when we have a sample block,
29 there is another section of that block that's randomly
30 chosen to survey intensively in there, so you really
31 look at one spot that you just choose in a random way
32 so when you find an animal in there, or you don't -- if
33 you didn't -- then you've probably covered the whole
34 area and you've counted every moose that's there and
35 let's say you flew a block, you didn't find any moose
36 and suddenly you found two moose there, you knew that
37 you had missed some of the moose on your survey so
38 you'd have to correct for the obvious bias of not
39 seeing every animal.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

44

45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Is Federal count area same as State count area on this

1 moratorium area?

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: That's correct. What
4 we've flown are just the standard blocks on the State
5 blocks that were flown before. And we are adding next
6 year, potentially a new block, that would be the
7 Kwethluk, the Eek, the Tuluksak and the Kisaralik
8 Basins that would have, I would say, a larger component
9 of Federal properties but still village and corporate
10 properties. And that would add to getting a better
11 overall subunit population estimate and that would be a
12 future goal there.

13

14 MR. CHARLES: How about in this areas
15 that are outside the count areas like outside of Eek
16 are you using estimates on those areas now or --
17 because I see quite a few moose between Bethel and
18 Tuntutuliak now.

19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, if you've got the
21 habitat I can totally believe it and that's why we
22 would include the Eek in part of that survey block to
23 add that data in and that's one of the goals with it.
24 And considering the population densities in this unit,
25 the more limited amount of habitat in comparison to
26 that in the Yukon, is that, we really want to get a
27 more accurate account to provide opportunity, you know,
28 as I'm sure, you know, as that's the most important
29 thing, but also to make sure that we have the most
30 accurate information possible to make that decision.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John. Is that it
33 James, are you done.

34

35 MR. CHARLES: (Nods affirmatively)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, John.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John
40 Andrew, Kwethluk. My question is two parts. One,
41 looking at all these survey blocks it shows on the
42 Kuskokwim Corridor, so all those are on State and
43 townsite areas and you don't show anything on all the
44 tributaries, rivers or way down from Eek River all the
45 way up to Tuluksak. If you go -- if you count all the
46 tributaries where the moose have their natural
47 habitats, they were never surveyed and I know in my own
48 backyard, my people are complaining they are being
49 chased off by moose lately when they go up the river.
50 And there were a lot of areas that were never surveyed,

1 areas that we were concerned with, too.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: John. And we
6 acknowledge that concern and that was exactly why we
7 put in those additional blocks was to accommodate those
8 habitats. Because you can extrapolate an idea and a
9 guesstimate from your density work that we've done
10 already on this unit, but it might be to all of our
11 best interest, especially to looking at the overall
12 effect of the moratorium, plus to get the more accurate
13 population information to include our proposed blocks
14 that would include the Kwethluk drainage, the
15 Kisaralik, the Eek and the Tuluksak.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
18 questions from the Council. Ray.

19

20 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Raymond Oney.

22

23 I know you did surveys on the lowest
24 part of the Yukon, is there any surveys that are going
25 to be done further up the Yukon. Also the Andreafsky
26 would be one that would be proposed for next year also.
27 And as you know with our window of time and snow
28 conditions on a winter like this we were fortunate. So
29 we take advantage of the weather when we get it and
30 that's one of our highest priorities that we have, at
31 least from our biological program, is to make sure we
32 get as accurate information to provide for subsistence
33 as possible.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Greg.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Tom these survival and recruitment rates are really
39 tremendous. I know there's other areas, like on the
40 middle river in 19, the habitat is at least as good if
41 not vastly better and certainly more extensive than we
42 have in the lower river, and there we only have eight
43 percent survival rates, at least on the last surveys
44 that were done. Are you guys also looking at including
45 like the Aniak drainage and I know you're confined by
46 that, to, the Federal lands, but.....

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: I think that's a good
49 question Greg and I think if it's something that should
50 be addressed then we should take a look at it, but I

1 didn't have that in my immediate plans but at a time,
2 you know, to discuss what would be the best approach to
3 that, I'd be amenable to listening to it, obviously.

4

5 MR. ROCZICKA: All right. I guess the
6 main point being, again, granted we have the moratorium
7 down there but when you have other areas of the state
8 that have as good or better and a lot more habitat and
9 then their survival and recruitments are in the toilet
10 as compared to this.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Right. Then as we go,
13 that's why we look at other factors and that's why I
14 say when there's not issue and why when we do surveys
15 we include the predation surveys, or just start to
16 answer those questions because then we can start
17 looking at tools in the toolbox. Also I'm very, very
18 adamant about looking at habitat constraints too.
19 Because many times areas that had sufficient moose
20 populations, we look at them from a very general
21 standpoint but also they may have been over browsed at
22 a certain point and just not recovered to be able to
23 sustain those moose populations. And so sometimes
24 there's some subtle underliers but, again, until we
25 have real information that we can take a look at and
26 use like we have here for these other units then I
27 think we can make rationale conclusions and management
28 directions.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Greg.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

35

36 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman. Your last count was 2004 on the lower
38 Kuskokwim and then on the lowest Yukon, March 2005. I
39 know you seen some numbers was -- do yo have the
40 numbers for '04 and '05?

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: To my knowledge they
43 went through periods of time that they weren't surveyed
44 at that particular time. So they go through periodic,
45 you know, about once every three years. That's about
46 the logistic schedule that we can afford and do.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

49

50 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Maybe I
4 didn't hear you right all the way through, I thought
5 you were going to say something about addressing
6 management recommendations here a little later, was
7 that later on down the line or later on during this
8 meeting. We have a proposal in front of us.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, I mean that would
11 be up to the discretion of if it's asked by the Board
12 to ask for management recommendations specific to a
13 unit. I guess really what it is is the empowerment of
14 the communities and to this group to come up with
15 season frameworks whether to continue or not to
16 continue a moratorium, and that's really a decision
17 that you can look at the data, that really is a
18 decision that is independent of myself.

19

20 And the densities, you can always get
21 there from different ways. In other words you can hunt
22 a population that's hanging around .5, I'd rather see
23 it higher, but that means that the amount of harvest
24 you would have would be extremely limited and extremely
25 short seasoned and it would take longer to get there.
26 My concern is when you have moose populations that are
27 below 0. -- like that 0.4 range and you start to knock
28 off the bulls in those areas, is whether those
29 breeding rates would be maintained to those cows. And
30 so that's part of it. I like to see those densities
31 initiate at a slightly higher rate, you know,
32 throughout the distribution of moose in the unit, just
33 so that we can maintain this population growth because
34 still the carrying capacity of that habitat has not
35 been reached in the lower Kuskokwim unit.

36

37 So there's still a long ways to go and
38 you start knocking them to early, it's going to take --
39 you can still grow a population it's just going to be
40 slower.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. And we're
43 not looking for carrying capacity, we're looking for
44 Kay.(ph).

45

(Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, any further
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I notice that you, did
4 you cover all of those, A, status of lower Yukon,
5 Kuskokwim and the moratorium, it sounded like you
6 covered all three of them in your presentation.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: You're welcome.
21
22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, okay, there's
25 one more question.
26
27 MS. GREGORY: Observation of wolf signs
28 in this report. Second paragraph, the lower Yukon
29 where it says three winter kills were observed, was
30 that by -- was it kills of moose or kills of wolves?
31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: I wish those guys could
33 have gone down there and see what killed the moose, but
34 we have track signs around the moose, they could have
35 died of old age, you know, it could ave been a wounding
36 mortality, could have been a wide range of things, but,
37 you know, usually it's association with a predator.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: Okay, thank you. Doi.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are we done.
42
43 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'm done.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: You're welcome.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think after this,
50 prior to the time we go into the proposals we'll be

1 hearing testimony from Moses Littlefish, Jeff Kerr,
2 Evan Paul Jr., Michaelson on moose, and those three
3 people Paul Evan, Jeff Kerr and Moses Littlefish and I
4 think our coordinator is trying to tell me it's
5 lunchtime, is that what you're trying to say.

6

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I think the
8 people who are serving lunch are patiently waiting and
9 it's now 12:30, it's up to you if you want to get done
10 with this, that's fine.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I guess we can't
13 work on an empty stomach so I think we'll take a break
14 for lunch. The ladies are charging for the lunch so if
15 you want to have lunch here you need to sign up for
16 there, thank you. We'll break for lunch until -- okay,
17 Father, could you have our prayer for dinner, please,
18 lunch. Father would you bless the food, please.

19

20 FATHER NICK: Prayer.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll wait a few
27 minutes.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. EVAN: My name is Evan and I'm from
34 lower Kalskag and I belong to the TC and the tribal
35 Council and city councils.

36

37 My concern is our Unit 18 and 19
38 boundary line. You can correct me if I'm wrong or if
39 I'm off the subject you can slap me, but, anyway, we
40 had this problem for so many years, Unit 18 and 19, our
41 boundary line is right above our village and this
42 really tears Unit 18 and every year, you know, when
43 they have this hunting thing they also talk about lower
44 Kalskag on up to Stony River, but lower Kalskag is not
45 on Unit 19, it's on Unit 18. So what we were thinking,
46 you know, if it would be possible to move the line
47 below our village, that was brought up to me by the
48 city councils and some of the people. It's really
49 confusing during the hunting season. Because every
50 time they stop in here they think it's Unit 19, but

1 it's 18, we're in Unit 18.

2

3 And the reason why I'm having to ask is
4 to move the lines below our village, would be Unit 19.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Anybody from
7 Staff want to answer this, one of our officials, Fish
8 and Game, Fish and Wildlife.

9

10 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pete, go ahead.

13

14 MR. HAYNES: This is Terry Haynes with
15 the Department of Fish and Game.

16

17 The State of Alaska, the State Board of
18 Game has made the game management unit boundaries and
19 subunit boundaries that are used in both the State and
20 Federal regulations and we would recommend that a
21 proposal be submitted to the Board of Game explaining
22 why you would like to see it change, the boundaries, I
23 believe that would be the appropriate place to start,
24 to take your request first, before taking it to the
25 Federal system. And a good way to do that would be to
26 have your -- maybe develop a proposal through your
27 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you understand
30 that.

31

32 MR. EVAN: Yeah. Another thing, we had
33 people coming in from the Fish and Game, I think it was
34 last month, and we had like a rough draft of a proposal
35 on that.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James, are you on that
40 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
43 with the lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory
44 Committee. Our members start from Tuluksak on down but
45 we don't have any members from Kalskag. Yeah, you can
46 write the proposal to Game Board to change your line.
47 That's what Pete said [sic].

48

49 MR. EVAN: We do have a representative
50 here from Fish and Game, I think.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Have you approached
2 him on requesting the change?
3
4 MR. EVAN: Yeah, he worked with us when
5 we made that rough draft, that resolution, on that
6 change, I don't know what happened to the paper.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Instead of a
9 revolution -- revolution -- that'd be a good revolution
10 all right, but instead of a resolution, maybe it might
11 be a good idea to talk to him to present the proposal
12 to the Department of Fish and Game.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Then we have
15 Moses Littlefish next on fish, moose, Yukon and
16 Kuskokwim populations.
17
18 MR. LITTLEFISH: About the moose
19 populations, I guess you guys already covered that.
20 You know, we had that five year moratorium on closing,
21 is it going to be open now.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, I think we have
24 how many more years left to that moratorium on the
25 Kuskokwim.
26
27 MR. ANDREW: One.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One more year, is that
30 correct.
31
32 MR. ANDREW: Uh-huh.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
35
36 MR. LITTLEFISH: And that fish, about
37 the fishing in summer, how is the escape management
38 going, fish escapement.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The fish what.
41
42 MR. LITTLEFISH The fish escapement,
43 salmon escapement.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we'll have that
46 covered briefly later on on our agenda.
47
48
49 MR. LITTLEFISH: Okay.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
2 Moses, I don't think -- I'm sorry I didn't -- I usually
3 ask -- being one of the new guys on the block, it's
4 hard to know everything that needs to be done.

5
6 But, anyway, we'll get down to Evan
7 Paul -- Paul Evan.

8
9 MR. EVAN: I missed that wolf
10 presentation earlier on the wolves, when it comes to
11 this area, I would like TKC to be around here because
12 Fish and Game are not allowed to shoot wolves on TKC
13 land, without approval of TKC. And is there any way
14 that we could get TKC out here to allow certain number
15 of wolves per area.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody have an answer
18 to this, from the Department.

19
20 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. I didn't
21 hear that question.

22
23 MR. EVAN: Since we're on TKC land
24 here, the Fish and Game are not allowed to shoot wolves
25 on TKC land without approval of the Kuskokwim
26 Corporation, is there any way we could control this.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Somebody should be
29 able to answer that.

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Terry Haynes, do you
32 understand the question.

33
34 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Terry
35 Haynes Department of Fish and Game. I don't believe
36 the Department of Fish and Game could do anything about
37 that. Private land owners have the ability to
38 determine who has access to their lands for particular
39 activities and if they don't want to allow predator
40 control on their lands then they have that prerogative.
41 So I think if you had an interest in having them change
42 their rules you would need to deal with them directly.

43
44 MR. EVAN: With the local Advisory
45 Committee.

46
47 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chairman. The
48 local Advisory Committee might want to talk directly
49 with the Kuskokwim Corporation about that, or your
50 local village corporation or your village council, but

1 it's not something that the Department of Fish and Game
2 would have the ability to change the Kuskokwim
3 Corporation's policy.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
6 question.

7
8 MR. EVAN: Yes, it did. On the moose I
9 was thinking could they move the checkpoint below
10 Kalskag where the two rivers meet, the reason I'm
11 saying this, there's hunters going down, we had a lot
12 of population of cows and calves up river and when they
13 did the survey, what happened to all the cows and
14 calves. I was wondering if the State Board of Fish and
15 Game could move the checkpoint to about three and a
16 half miles where both the old river and the main river
17 meet and have a checkpoint there.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Terry.

20
21 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. I could
22 certainly pass on that information to Philip Perry in
23 Bethel and see if that's something he would be able to
24 do. But I will pass that on information to him.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

27
28 MR. EVAN: It would be great if they
29 moved that checkpoint to below Kalskag where the two
30 rivers meet because they might -- it might look like
31 they have a bull in there but they might throw a calf
32 in there right under the bull, you can't tell. That's
33 my opinion about where the checkpoint should be for any
34 people that comes up here to hunt, they need to check
35 in and before they go down they need to check out.

36
37 That's all I have on that moose.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead
40 Greg.

41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Evan, I don't know if it's still the same way but you
44 might need to bring that matter to TKC as well because
45 I know in the past when Fish and Game did try to
46 establish a checkpoint down below they couldn't get
47 approval to use the land to put it there. They had to
48 put it someplace else.

49
50 MR. EVAN: So it will have to be

1 approved by TKC?

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Depending on where it's
4 at, yeah. But that might come in -- again, I don't
5 know where it's at now, but it might be something
6 you'll need to check on to see.

7

8 MR. EVAN: Okay.

9

10 MR. ROCZICKA: It has stopped them from
11 doing it in the past.

12

13 MR. EVAN: Okay, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. You're
16 Evan, right?

17

18 MR. EVAN: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

21 Next, Jeff Kerr.

22

23 MR. KERR: Yes, my name is Jeff Kerr.
24 I live in upper Kalskag. I've lived here almost 30
25 years and seen a lot of change in the villages and how
26 people's lifestyles are and how they used to hunt in
27 back in the olden days and how they hunt now today.

28

29 I understand that we're real concerned
30 about our future generation and trying to preserve the
31 game and stuff so we'll have -- to get the population
32 back up on the bull moose so we'll have for our future
33 generation.

34

35 My concerns are are present generation.
36 A lot of people right now are having a hard time. The
37 price of fuel, the price of groceries, the parcel post,
38 everything is going up in inflation. It's really hard
39 to live in a village where you have to pay so much for
40 everything, everything has to be flown in, everything's
41 real expensive. A lot of people are on public
42 assistance. There's very little jobs in the winter.
43 In the summertime we get a little bit more jobs,
44 construction, firefighting, but the winter months are
45 real hard and they're cold and long.

46

47 My question is is there any way that
48 there can be a season for hunting cow moose like in
49 August when they're not pregnant or carrying calves so
50 that way then you're not taking more than actually one

1 moves if they're carrying calves, a short limited hunt
2 before the main bull hunt season for people that don't
3 get a moose. I haven't shot a moose in like eight or
4 10 years and I've been going out and it's -- I have six
5 kids and it's really hard to feed my family, you know,
6 to get through the -- I have to work in the summertime,
7 I'm a crew boss for firefighters and I have to try to
8 make my money in the summer or do carpentry work in the
9 summer to save enough and build enough up in the summer
10 to make it all winter long. And so my question is if
11 they can make a proposal for local people with limited
12 hunt for cow season to possibly hunt cows.

13

14 And maybe -- and I know our areas are
15 still low in moose and they're trying to build it up
16 but if there could be a limited hunt like in August or
17 so, or what do you guys think about that, or what are
18 the possibilities on that.

19

20 Because I know when I watch the news, I
21 hear in Anchorage that people in Anchorage they have a
22 cow season hunt and that really hurt when I heard that,
23 it really hurt me in my heart, you know what they say,
24 when you -- out here in our village, jimilaruk (ph), that
25 means when you hurt, you feel bad when you hear things,
26 on the news that really hurt me when I heard they had a
27 cow season hunt in Anchorage and people that are on
28 subsistence live mostly out in the Bush, there's people
29 in Anchorage that go to the stores, the groceries are
30 cheaper, the fuel's cheaper, everything's cheaper in
31 Anchorage but yet how do they have a cow season in
32 Anchorage.

33

34 Maybe in certain areas, a long time
35 ago, I remember around here they used to have cow
36 season hunts like in the winter and I think the reason
37 maybe they quit doing those were because they found out
38 the cow moose were carrying calves during that time,
39 and they probably cut that off maybe for that reason, I
40 don't know.

41

42 But my question is, is there any plans
43 in the future of having a cow season, hunt, at least so
44 some of the people can have a chance to get some kind
45 of meat for their family because, you know, they can't
46 always get the Tier II permits and the bull moose are
47 very limited here and it's just real hard to put meat
48 on the table. We live out here a subsistence life, we
49 try to live a subsistence life, but with all the rules
50 and regulations we can't have that out here anymore.

1 People say they try to give us
2 subsistence rights but what rights do we have, we don't
3 have any rights, we have to follow the game rules, go
4 by the book, if we don't we'll get thrown in jail for
5 shooting a moose, we'll get our snowmachines taken
6 away, or our guns taken away.

7
8 And the way I see it there's no
9 subsistence life out here like it -- subsistence, to
10 me, is people that need food that don't have any meat
11 in their freezer and have a family to feed, they should
12 have the right to go out and catch something to feed
13 their families but that's no more, that's long gone, so
14 why can't they open a cow season in a short limited
15 hunt, a short time or something, at the right time of
16 the season when they're not carrying calves so people
17 can have at least a chance to feed their family.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.
20 Terry, you got an answer to that. Fish and Game.

21
22 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 I think in terms of the State Board of Game and whether
24 or not it would create a cow hunt, certainly cow hunts
25 are normally established in areas where there are
26 healthy moose populations. That certainly is not the
27 case in Unit 19A and if that's the area where the
28 speaker is interested in perhaps having an August cow
29 season, he could always submit a proposal to the Board
30 of Game, but I strongly doubt that the Board of Game
31 would create a cow season at any time of the year at
32 this point in time.

33
34 I won't speak for the Federal
35 Subsistence Board or the Federal agencies and their
36 point of view on this.

37
38 I think it is important to note that a
39 very good point is made that resources are important to
40 people in the rural areas and with inflation and higher
41 costs coming about, fish and wildlife resources are
42 obviously becoming more and more important. I think
43 the real concern, though, is we have to ensure we
44 protect the moose population so that it will be around
45 for a long time and killing cow moose at any time of
46 the year can be a significant problem and can limit the
47 opportunity for the population to grow.

48
49 So, again, it's something that a
50 proposal could always be submitted to the Board of Game

1 to see if the Board of Game would be able to open a
2 State season, but at this point in time I don't think
3 the chances of that are very good.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
8 question from the State side.....

9

10 REPORTER: Lester. Lester.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE:and maybe we
13 could get an opinion from the Federal side. Sorry.
14 That's an opinion from the State side, now somebody
15 from the Federal side.

16

17 MR. KERR: I have one more thing here.
18 I understand that it's probably not possible to have a
19 hunt in our area directly but is there a possibility of
20 having it in the Yukon, where the moose are more
21 abundant, like in the winter, but -- early winter time,
22 but I don't know, the moose, the cow's carry calves in
23 the winter, is that the reason why they stopped that
24 cow season hunt.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, did you have a
27 statement before I call on someone?

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I did actually.
30 You know, part of what Terry said. You're not likely
31 not to get a -- well, almost certainly not going to get
32 a cow hunt around here, and whether you shoot the cow
33 in the fall or whether you shoot it in the winter when
34 it's actually got calves in its belly, it's going to be
35 a dead animal and it's not going to have those babies
36 and contribute to the population for the rest, and it
37 gets to -- you know the Federal Subsistence Board can
38 make all kinds of regulations to allow for subsistence
39 at any time but if there's nothing there to catch what
40 good is it, in the long-term, and where I think you can
41 help and one of the things you heard me earlier when I
42 went on my rant about problems I have with the Board's
43 lack of asserting any kind of a management, is that
44 they need to hear from you too for exactly that reason.
45 That is why they should be managing to get the
46 populations back to where you guys could have your
47 winter cow hunts like it used to be and those
48 populations were there for generations. You know I've
49 been running up and down this river, too, for 40 years,
50 and if we could get back to where that was, that's

1 basically where most people were satisfied and happy
2 with through the '80s and '90s and back into the '70s
3 even.

4

5 There is a cow hunt, or an any moose
6 hunt allowed on the lower Yukon right now in the
7 wintertime, I know it's a long ways, it's over below
8 Mountain, you have to go down to that section below
9 Mountain where Tom was mentioned earlier, where the
10 population is getting so dense that they're worried now
11 that it's getting too big and it might be overstressing
12 their habitat although there's no real indications of
13 that yet.

14

15 But, I mean you could put the proposals
16 in but until the population comes back up to support it
17 I mean you're only -- you catch a cow and it's good for
18 one season, but then it's gone forever and you're going
19 to be just as hungry the next year.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
22 question or do you need some more clarification.

23

24 MR. KERR: No, just as far as like on
25 the Yukon access to where we can go like over by
26 Paimiut and stuff too, to where people from Aniak and
27 Kalskag can go to hunt, you know, I know there's lots
28 of moose over there and if they can have a cow season
29 even over there that we can try to go and get some meat
30 for the wintertime, too, for people that didn't get
31 their bull moose in the fall here.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you got any
34 statement on that Terry.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Comments.

39

40 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 There is a winter season in Unit 21E for any moose and
42 it's a short season and that's February 1 through 10
43 and that obviously isn't always a very good time to be
44 traveling and you might have very cold weather. But
45 there is that opportunity in the Federal regulations
46 for a 10 day season in Unit 21E, which is in that lower
47 Yukon River area in the Holy Cross, Paimiut area, so
48 there is that opportunity available.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

1 MR. KERR: Yeah, okay, yeah, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Before
4 Hollis, Mary had her hand up, go ahead, Mary, and then
5 we'll hear from Hollis.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: I wanted to speak to what
8 the gentleman was referring to and I'm not going to
9 sound like a Federal or a State person because I'm here
10 to work for these people who are in the villages and
11 it's a good thing that we came here and we're hearing
12 firsthand information, not second hand and I'm glad
13 that you brought that up, sir, and I encourage you
14 people not to be scared to speak up, not from fear of
15 reprisal from somebody because we are here to help you
16 out and we are here to help ourselves out, so don't be
17 scared to speak up like that gentleman did.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary.
22 Hollis.

23

24 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair. Council
25 members. Hollis Twitchell. Yukon-Delta Fish and
26 Wildlife Refuge. I understand the concerns the
27 gentleman just had and his request for other
28 opportunities to hunt moose locally.

29

30 The Federal drawing hunt in Unit 19A,
31 which involves just the Federal lands and Fish and
32 Wildlife and BLM, we issued 92 hunting permits for the
33 Federal drawing permit last year and had 61 of those of
34 those individuals hunt, only 16 of those individuals
35 actually made a harvest of moose in 19A off Federal
36 lands. That's an indication of very low hunter success
37 in that area, obviously due to low numbers of moose in
38 this region. So it's very obvious that it's a resource
39 issue here. The opportunity to have a cow hunt in this
40 area would be fairly unlikely with the low numbers of
41 moose in this particular region, in 19A.

42

43 What I'd like to bring forward is the
44 request that first came in from Calvin Simeon in Aniak
45 asking a question about the 21E hunt in the Yukon which
46 would be in the Paimiut area that the gentleman
47 referred to.

48

49 Calvin raised a question of whether
50 Aniak and Kalskag could go over for that winter hunt,

1 which is from February 1st to February 10th and
2 participate hunting in that area, in doing so we looked
3 at the customary and traditional use determination for
4 users who could participate in that hunt, and that C&T
5 determination only said rural residents of Unit 21E and
6 Russian Mission and did not include Aniak and Kalskag
7 so there's a problem that needs to be addressed.
8 Calvin could speak much more eloquently to the
9 customary and traditional use of his community in this
10 area, the Kuskokwim, of crossing over into the Yukon
11 for subsistence purposes including moose hunting in
12 that region.

13

14 So this is an issue that will need to
15 be corrected or reviewed for a customary and
16 traditional use determination. And I'm sure that he's
17 going to be pursuing that, requesting that change, the
18 addition of Aniak and Kalskag as users in that area.

19

20 That, of course, would have to be taken
21 up by the Federal Subsistence Board and a determination
22 made there.

23

24 Hunting in that area, certainly from
25 the Refuge standpoint, could support a hunt in that
26 area, there's healthy populations of moose in that
27 area, in 21E and also in the remainder portion of 18.
28 I don't have the biological numbers to offer up to you
29 now, that's something we would have to work with Philip
30 to get that information. But having done activities
31 and patrols over there for the last two February hunts,
32 there's been significant numbers of moose observed
33 along the Yukon River stem and the subsequent sloughs
34 feeding into it in that area. So without having the
35 biological information in front of me, the initial
36 observations are there are significant numbers of moose
37 in that region of the Yukon.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Hollis.

42 Next to testify is Calvin.

43

44 MR. SIMEON: Good morning Members of
45 the RAC. As stated my name is Calvin Simeon, I'm the
46 son of Jerry and Betty Simeon who are out at (In
47 Yup'ik) right now, at spring camp, where I'd like to
48 be.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. SIMEON: I just have three quick
2 things to go over.

3
4 The first one, as Hollis had mentioned,
5 up in Aniak and Kalskag, as everyone knows there's very
6 few moose, we've had a lot of problems catching moose
7 and we have customary and traditional use determination
8 in Unit 18 and it's 35 miles from Aniak to here and the
9 boundary from 21E is a mile and a half from my home.
10 We can't go a mile and a half from my home and go
11 hunting. There's something really wrong with that.

12
13 I know those people over in those
14 villages won't begrudge us a moose season, I really
15 would hope they don't begrudge us a moose season to go
16 over there and hunt because in Unit 19, we have to
17 share with Unit 18, we have to share with Anchorage
18 people, we have to share with statewide people, we have
19 to share with wolves, we're shared out, we're dry,
20 we're bone dry.

21
22 So I just wanted to build the record
23 that the Kuskokwim Native Association is going through
24 the process of asking these villages to have a C&T
25 determination in 21E so we have more opportunity to
26 hunt.

27
28 And also when Crem (ph) came up to ask
29 earlier about the movement of the boundary, lower
30 Kalskag can simply -- their traditional council can
31 simply order or tell the Kuskokwim Native Association
32 to write that proposal for them. We offer that service
33 to them. They just simply have to tell us what to do,
34 we could do that for them. But we're pursuing the C&T
35 determination in 21E.

36
37 The other thing I wanted to go over
38 real quick was the situation with wolves. This issue,
39 to me, shines a glaring light on the failure of the
40 Federal Subsistence process, it's like shining a huge
41 light on it that says you guys are unable because of
42 pressure from elsewhere in the country to not manage
43 for predators when that's your job, it's your
44 responsibility. Because when we started this process,
45 when the villages started this process where the State
46 failed to comply with ANILCA and we ended up with this
47 Federal Subsistence Management, to me, as an Alaskan,
48 as a person in this state, that's the worst thing that
49 ever happened to people in this state and I'll tell you
50 why, because we're in the honeymoon stage with the

1 Federal Subsistence Process right now, we're still in
2 the honeymoon stage with them, and at some point
3 there's going to be very powerful people down in the
4 states and other parts of the country that are going to
5 have more control over our resources than we're going
6 to and I'm telling you guys that this issue of wolves
7 shows -- it shines the light on it, it shines the light
8 on it, because even if you guys wanted to manage
9 predators, you can't do it, it's not your decision,
10 it's above you, it's these other people in the Federal
11 system, in the United States because the thing was the
12 Feds are the reason we have moose here to begin with.
13 In territorial days they had bounty hunters. My
14 grandparents tell me, we never had no moose around here
15 when I was a kid, it's because of bounty hunters and
16 the Federal government going around and shooting and
17 killing all the wolves like we used to do, that's why
18 we have moose in this area and so it's just so ironic
19 that we come full circle to this point now and you guys
20 can't do nothing about it, you guys are -- your hands
21 are tied. It's almost as if the Federal System treats
22 us like a colony. You know the whole Alaska like a
23 colony like we can't take care of ourselves.

24
25 To me, it's something that we're going
26 to have to address someplace down the road because
27 under the Federal System the whole United States owns
28 it, everybody owns it, so they have a right to
29 participate in it and the State system is a smaller
30 system but they say the entire state has ability to
31 participate in it, so it's a matter of degree to me and
32 one of these days, to me, this Federal System, having
33 all these other people able to influence the process,
34 is going to cost us subsistence in the end. I just
35 worry about that and think about that.

36
37 And the last thing I wanted to say is
38 on fisheries. On the Kuskokwim River, one of the big
39 issues we have is king salmon. And if you look at the
40 simple studies that were done about bycatch in the
41 ocean, they caught more king salmon and threw them
42 overboard than if -- if we had those king salmon come
43 back to the Kuskokwim River -- I never advocate for a
44 king salmon opening and they know it, but, you know, I
45 would if all those fish came back, if they didn't catch
46 them in the ocean and throw them overboard, I think it
47 was 80-something thousand that they caught, that was a
48 harvestable surplus on the Kuskokwim that could have
49 contributed to our economy. To me, that's a problem,
50 that something has to be done about that because the

1 commercial fishery on the Kuskokwim it just can't work
2 unless there's fish coming back into the river. And if
3 you just look at even the weakest data, the amount of
4 fish coming back to the Kuskokwim are greatly impacted
5 by bycatch and on the Kuskokwim we catch up to 50
6 percent of the king salmon in the State of Alaska,
7 almost 50 percent on the Kuskokwim, we're heavily
8 dependent on that. And to me, to have a lot of those
9 harvested and not used, it's a crying shame, and over
10 the years back in the day when Harold Spark was around,
11 you guys might remember him, he used to scream bloody
12 murder about bycatch and then all of a sudden when the
13 CDQ program came around and they gave some money to the
14 coastal villages, nothing, nobody say nothing about it
15 no more. Well, on the Kuskokwim we depend way more on
16 salmon than the coastal folks, honest we do, the data
17 shows it, we depend more on king salmon than Yukon, but
18 we never got a dime out of CDQ. We never got a dime
19 out of it. But the thing is, to me, a lot of times I
20 look at that like hush money, they keep these people
21 quiet by giving them money from CDQ bycatch, but they
22 never gave my community nothing so I'm not going to
23 keep quiet.

24

25 So thank you, gentlemen, that's about
26 all I have to say unless you have any questions.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: Do you have any
31 suggestions for us on how a recommendation on how to
32 further pursue this because you know we got a like mind
33 about this, that the Federal system such as it is, or
34 where it's going, in my mind, is heading towards
35 phasing subsistence out as well in the long-term, and
36 whether it's being done intentionally or not might be a
37 matter for debate by some, just as ANCSA was a similar
38 situation.

39

40 But other than trying to -- not other
41 -- but further thoughts on how we can try to get them
42 into a system of responsibility and into the management
43 structure to take some responsibility that they have to
44 manage their populations to provide for subsistence.

45

46 MR. SIMEON: Well, my understanding,
47 you know, when I first started this when I was just a
48 kid, when I was 20-something, the top level people at
49 Fish and Wildlife, they were hunters, even though the
50 people that were there at that time, they were mainly

1 people who were interested in hunting and understood
2 that hunters take care of the game, but now it just
3 seems like a lot of them are environmentalists or tree-
4 huggers or whatever they're doing, they're not really
5 hunters. And until the culture there starts to change
6 a little, I don't see it happening because everyone is
7 just too afraid of killing a couple of wolves when
8 that's the fact of the matter, we need to kill some of
9 these things off for the betterment of the population
10 so we could have a chance to eat them. There's just
11 too many wolves.

12
13 Somebody has to get brave. Somebody at
14 the top level of Fish and Wildlife, some big boss has
15 to stand up and say, I'm not afraid of managing for
16 subsistence because that's a critical issue. If
17 they're not going to do it, let's just stop this and go
18 on to something else because we need to address the
19 situation, we need to catch some of these wolves and
20 get on with it because this is not a political issue to
21 me, it's not an issue where people get caught on TV and
22 say, oh, you're killing wolves, to me it's about eating
23 and family and taking care of each other. It's -- and
24 I -- somebody has to be brave about it, somebody has to
25 and it's not my job but somebody has to.

26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Do you plan on attending
28 the Federal Board to pass those similar comments along
29 for this coming.....

30
31 MR. SIMEON: As long as we find the
32 money.

33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. And just on the
35 other matter, you know, you mentioned about the bycatch
36 and that caught me kind of by surprise, too, since the
37 Federal Board is always saying that they're so careful
38 about trying to take a position one way or another and
39 walk along that tightrope and not do nothing for
40 practical and strong statements. But I found in the
41 book here, dated February 8, from Chairman of the
42 Board, Mr. Fleagle here, a very strong letter to the
43 National Marine Fishery Service regarding the bycatch,
44 it is in here, so at least they managed to do that.
45 Again, I wish they could manage our moose the same way
46 they want to manage our fisheries. And perhaps if some
47 of the leadership in those groups were wildlife
48 biologists instead of being the vast majority all
49 fisheries biologists it might help, too, or former fish
50 biologists.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions for
2 Simeon.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

7
8 MR. SIMEON: Thank you, sir.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And now we'll go down
11 to regional proposals. The first proposal on the
12 regional proposals is Proposal 33, moose, close unit to
13 non-Federally qualified subsistence users, and that
14 goes to Mr. DeMatteo, are you on.

15
16 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 members of the Council. This analysis begins in your
18 book on Page 46, and Proposal 33 was submitted by AVCP
19 and requests a closure of Federal public lands to non-
20 Federally qualified users during the fall and winter
21 moose seasons in the Yukon River drainage in Unit 18
22 and Unit 18 remainder.

23
24 The closure area can be seen on a map
25 in your books on Page 49.

26
27 The closure is the area, Unit 18
28 remainder, in the middle of the map there it says
29 remainder, and then the area, the lower Yukon River
30 marked lower Yukon hunt area, those two areas are the
31 proposed closure areas. And the proponent requests
32 that the closure to non-Federally qualified subsistence
33 users be reinstated in these two areas, the area on the
34 map labeled remainder as I mentioned, and also the hunt
35 area.

36
37 The proposed regulations can be seen in
38 your book on Page 47, halfway down to the bottom of the
39 page, the words:

40
41 Federal public lands are closed to the
42 taking of moose except by Federally-
43 qualified subsistence users hunting
44 under these regulations.

45
46 That language would be added to those
47 two sections that the proposal requests that the
48 closure be reinstated.

49
50 In May of 2007 the Federal Subsistence

1 Board eliminated the Federal regulatory closure on
2 moose hunting for non-Federally qualified users in the
3 lower Yukon River area down stream from Mountain
4 Village as well as Unit 18 remainder for both the fall
5 and winter moose seasons in response to current moose
6 population abundance.

7

8 Mr. Chair, the moose population in the
9 proposal area is highly productive and continues to
10 grow and is capable of supporting an increased harvest.
11 The growth rate and size of the population has resource
12 managers concerned that these moose will exceed the
13 carrying capacity of their habitat by overbrowsing
14 which would lead to population decline.

15

16 This current population trend is
17 attributed primarily to the five year moratorium of
18 moose hunting that occurred between the years 1998 and
19 1993 [sic] and the excellent habitat conditions below
20 Mountain Village. The reported harvest for the Yukon
21 portion of the proposal area appears to be relatively
22 stable since 2002 at just over 200 bull moose per year.

23

24 Mr. Chair, if this proposal is adopted
25 by the Federal Subsistence Board, this proposal would
26 reestablish the closure of Federal public lands to non-
27 Federally qualified subsistence users during the fall
28 and winter moose seasons in the lower Yukon in Unit 18
29 and also in Unit 18 remainder. Mr. Chair, Staff
30 recognizes the sacrifices the Unit 18 residents made
31 during the five year moratorium and also the sacrifices
32 currently being made by local residents because of the
33 moratorium of the moose hunting on the lower Kuskokwim
34 River drainage. And it should be mentioned that the
35 size of today's moose population in the lower Yukon
36 River drainage is due to the cooperative efforts made
37 by local residents and, of course, Mother Nature.

38

39 Also, Mr. Chair, ANILCA does give the
40 Board the authority to limit harvest to Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users during periods of shortage
42 as the Board did in 1991 but currently there is no
43 biological reason that justifies the closure for the
44 lower Yukon River drainage of Unit 18 and also for Unit
45 18 remainder. Again, there does exist a concern that
46 current level of harvest is not enough to impact the
47 moose population to keep these moose from overbrowsing
48 their habitat.

49

50 With that, Mr. Chair, the OSM

1 preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP08-33.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pete.

6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

7

8 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 The Department's comments are on Page 56 of your

10 Council book.

11

12 Let me first say that I apologize for

13 the misstatement I made regarding the moose hunt in 21E

14 during the public testimony and I appreciate Hollis

15 Twitchell clarifying who was eligible for that hunt.

16

17 But moving on to this specific

18 proposal, the Department does not support this proposal

19 for the reasons that Mr. DeMatteo described in the

20 Staff analysis. In order for the Federal Board to

21 close this area to non-Federally qualified subsistence

22 users, it would have to determine that it was necessary

23 for conservation of healthy populations of moose or to

24 continue subsistence use of those populations or for

25 public or administrative reasons or pursuant to other

26 applicable law. And in our judgment, none of these

27 conditions currently apply to moose hunting on Federal

28 public lands in areas of Unit 18 that are currently

29 open to moose hunting and closing these lands would be

30 an unnecessary restriction on other hunters.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

35 Preliminary comments to the Regional Advisory Council.

36

37 Wildlife Proposal WP08-33:

38

39 Close Federal public lands in Unit 18

40 to moose hunting by non-Federally qualified subsistence

41 users.

42

43 Introduction:

44

45 The proposal seeks to provide

46 additional opportunity for Federally qualified

47 subsistence users by eliminating competition from other

48 hunters. The proposal omits two areas in Unit 18 that

49 are closed to moose hunting in Federal regulations.

50 These omissions have the effect of increasing the size

1 of the remainder of Unit 18 and could convey the
2 impression that hunting is allowed in areas that are
3 closed.

4

5 Impact on Subsistence Users:

6

7 The proposed closure would eliminate
8 the opportunity for non-Federally qualified subsistence
9 users to hunt moose on Federal public lands in Unit 18
10 that re currently open to hunting. This closure would
11 apply to friends and relatives of Federally-qualified
12 subsistence users eligible to participate in this hunt
13 under State regulations and would concentrate hunting
14 by non-locals onto limited State and private lands.

15

16 Opportunity Provided by State:

17

18 Although the State and Federal area
19 descriptions do not match, the State regulations
20 authorize moose hunting in Unit 18 south of the Eek
21 River drainage and north of the Goodnews River drainage
22 (residents: September 1-30); in the area north and
23 west of a line from Cape Romanzof....(residents:
24 September 1-30 or December 20-January 10, and non-
25 residents: September 1-30); and in the remainder of
26 Unit 18 (residents: September 1-30 or December 20-
27 January 18, non-residents: September 1-30_.

28

29 Conservation Issues:

30

31 There are no conservation issues that
32 justify reinstating a closure. Moose are abundant in
33 areas of Unit 18 currently open for hunting, thanks to
34 the success of the five year moratorium. Information
35 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in 2007
36 indicated that the moose population in areas targeted
37 in this proposal is highly productive and is continuing
38 to grow. Preliminary harvest estimates for 2007
39 indicate that only eight moose were taken in Unit 18 by
40 non-local residents and non-residents of Alaska
41 combined.

42

43 Enforcement Issues:

44

45 Differences in Federal and State
46 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
47 create enforcement issues in areas with mixed land
48 ownership. The boundaries between Federal and State
49 lands are not marked and often difficult to locate on
50 the ground.

1 Other Comments:

2

3

4 Under its closure policy adopted in
5 2007, the Federal Subsistence Board "will not restrict
6 the taking of fish and wildlife by users on Federal
7 public lands (other than National Parks and Park
8 Monuments) unless necessary for conservation of healthy
9 populations of fish and wildlife resources or to
10 continue subsistence uses of those populations, or for
11 public safety or administrative reasons, or 'pursuant
12 to other applicable law.'" none of these conditions
13 apply to moose hunting on Federal public lands open to
14 moose hunting in Unit 18, and a closure would be an
15 unnecessary restriction on non-Federally qualified
16 subsistence users in violation of Section .815 of
17 ANILCA.

17

18 Recommendation:

19

20 Do not adopt.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pete [sic]
23 -- oh, I'm sorry that was Hollis, wasn't it?

24

25 REPORTER: Terry.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Terry. Thank you,
28 Tina. I'll get the names straightened out, it just
29 takes me a little while.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 Federal, State and tribal agency
34 comments.

35

36 Tim.

37

38 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 For the record my name is Tim Andrew, I'm the director
40 for natural resources for the Association of Village
41 Council Presidents.

42

43 We submitted this proposal in response
44 to the Federal Subsistence Board acting on the former
45 proposal of opening up Unit 18 to non-Federally
46 qualified subsistence users -- to non-Federally
47 qualified hunters for the purpose of hunting moose in
48 the area, or in Unit 18, in the open areas.

49

50 Some of the points I'd like to point

1 out to why we submitted this proposal, one of the areas
2 that has been addressed in the Emmonak meeting and
3 several other meetings following that and also at the
4 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks, the amounts
5 necessary for subsistence.

6
7 Mr. Chairman, you were the one that
8 submitted the proposal to have the State reevaluate
9 their amounts necessary for subsistence for moose in
10 the area, which is currently at 80 to 100. And we all
11 understand that this is very, very low, it doesn't
12 truly reflect the true amounts necessary for
13 subsistence. The State Board of Game basically took
14 action on that proposal and reverted it to the Western
15 Regional Council, and in response to our C59 that was
16 submitted as a result of a meeting in Bethel, to
17 reevaluate what the true amount of the amounts
18 necessary for subsistence moose is for the area.

19
20 And we feel that this proposal was
21 acted on prematurely even before we even get accurate
22 amounts necessary for subsistence. We felt that the
23 State and the U.F. Fish and Wildlife Service
24 prematurely supported this proposal before determining
25 what that critical number is.

26
27 And if the Western Regional Council,
28 after they convene a meeting a number of times
29 throughout this summer and fall determine that the
30 amounts necessary for subsistence is beyond the
31 harvestable surplus we will be in a Tier II situation.
32 It's something that I think we really need to take a
33 look at seriously.

34
35 The other thing that I'd like to remind
36 and place on the record that the Federal Subsistence
37 Management System is not Federal Game Management
38 system, it's Federal Subsistence Management System, the
39 Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the Office
40 of Subsistence Management is the Office of Subsistence
41 Management and not Office of Game Management.

42
43 I'd also like to disclose that the
44 Moose Management Report produced by the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game dated 2004 indicated that
46 there was no population objective -- or there was no
47 objective for bull to cow ratios but in the publication
48 in front of you, I believe it's on Page 53, they
49 disclosed that the cow -- bull to cow ratios are 58 to
50 100 in the year 2001 when this publication was produced

1 and refer that the Moose Management Report dated
2 December 2004, which covered the period of July 1, 2001
3 to June 30th of 2003. I don't know where they got that
4 information from where the bull to cow ratios are
5 exceed and maybe that's something that the Department
6 representative can answer that at another time if you
7 so desired Mr. Chair and Board members.

8

9 And also during the hunt last year, the
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued permits, in fact,
11 the indicated on reports, on various reports that they
12 had issued a number of permits outside of the area that
13 we normally use for subsistence hunting during the fall
14 hunt. I'm one of those people that hunt around the
15 close proximity of the community of Marshall, my home
16 town, because I don't have that opportunity on the
17 Kuskokwim area, and one of the areas that they had
18 permitted the camp was in very, very close proximity to
19 the village corporation and my late grandfather's late
20 allotment area, within less than a mile. And if you
21 take a look at the ANILCA deliberations, some of the
22 material that is written, a lot of the village
23 corporation lands were selected because of subsistence
24 reasons, also Native allotments as well, they were
25 selected for subsistence purposes. And for the Fish
26 and Wildlife Service to breach that responsibility and
27 issue permits for these sporthunters to operate within
28 close proximity to our village corporation lands and
29 Native allotments is just totally -- I just can't
30 understand it. And there is no tribal or corporate
31 consultation in the issuance of the permits. I don't
32 know where they issued these permits, you don't know
33 where they issued these permits, even the public
34 doesn't know where they issued these permits. And I
35 feel as land owners close to the areas where they're
36 issuing these permits, that we have to know and you
37 have to know as well.

38

39 The other area that I'd like to talk
40 about is the qualify of the hunt for residents. Like I
41 said I hunted in that area in the fall, and it was one
42 of the noisiest experiences I've ever heard, or ever
43 experienced in the hunt, and maybe I can cover that in
44 my personal testimony when it comes down to the public
45 testimony section.

46

47 The other area that I'd like to talk
48 about is the need for a subsistence cow hunt, that cow
49 hunt that was brought up earlier by a number of people
50 from this community and perhaps others in the area.

1 A lot of the attention has been focused
2 on the lowest part of the Yukon River where, yes, we
3 are seeing a great number of moose populations
4 increasing, in fact, the local residents are saying,
5 they see moose all over the place, which is true, but
6 within the Unit 18 remainder, which is above Mountain
7 Village up to Paimiut in the open areas, we do not have
8 an opportunity to hunt cows. We were never given that
9 opportunity. In fact we were never even given an
10 opportunity to hunt anything else but antlers bulls
11 within that winter season. And whenever I've gone out
12 hunting, whenever others have gone out hunting, they've
13 seen so many cows out there before they finally even
14 see a bull that they desire to shoot, and we believe
15 that a subsistence cow hunt needs to open even prior to
16 allowing the non-residents to come in to hunt in Unit
17 18 area. And the Federal Subsistence Management System
18 must recognize that we must give full opportunity for
19 our subsistence hunters to hunt prior to allowing non-
20 residents to come in.

21
22 The other area that I'd like to talk
23 about is the use of the sportharvested meat. In Fish
24 and Wildlife's report they indicated that the
25 outfitters that participate in the hunt have taken this
26 meat, they've donated it to a number of families in the
27 community of Bethel, but we don't know which families,
28 we don't know what the condition of the meat was that
29 arrived to these families and we don't even know how
30 much meat. A lot, you know, our values, our Yup'ik
31 values for the majority of the people that live in the
32 area, we do not like to waste meat. We know how
33 valuable that meat is and we try and keep that meat
34 from spoiling. And they said, you know, they gave it
35 to eight families, you know, I don't know if it's even
36 eight families, if there are records somewhere. You
37 know, I don't necessarily need to know which eight
38 families but perhaps a record of it should be in some
39 house, maybe Fish and Game or perhaps the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service. Perhaps Fish and Wildlife Service,
41 they issued the permits to those people to operate.

42
43 You know, in my capacity as the
44 director of natural resources, I've heard various
45 complaints, I haven't been able to substantiate any of
46 them but in talking about sporthunters coming out to
47 the Native corporation lands of Ohagmiut, I know there
48 are a number of camps that were operating within the
49 area and I've also heard from people that a lot of the
50 airplane traffic has increased in the area, a lot of

1 circling, a lot of swooping down, a lot of landing in
2 various areas, wherever they're able to land their
3 float planes so the quality of hunt is extremely
4 affected by the allowance of these non-residents to
5 hunt.

6
7 And I believe that -- oh, one thing I'd
8 like to bring out is, you know, in AVCP's submitting
9 this proposal, we do not want to limit those that truly
10 depend on moose for meat, like, for example, the
11 residents from Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and
12 others that are in close proximity of Unit 18 that want
13 to hunt in the area, like Stebbins and St. Michaels
14 which we allowed them to participate in Unit 18
15 remainder and the lowest part of the Yukon. We don't
16 have -- I don't -- you know, AVCP does not have that
17 intent to keep those people out. We just want the
18 Federal Management System to closely evaluate the true
19 subsistence needs of the people of the area, give them
20 the maximum opportunity to fill their freezers, to feed
21 their families, to provide for others within the area
22 before opening it to the non-resident hunter.

23
24 And, you know, a lot of people come up
25 and talk to me and tell me that there is lots and lots
26 of moose out there, we need to thin that population
27 down; yes, I understand that, in the lowest part of the
28 Yukon where most of the attention was given, you know,
29 the sporthunting effort down there is absolutely zilch,
30 there's nobody down there operating, there's no
31 sporthunter camps that I know of that operated within
32 that lowest part of the Yukon where much of the
33 attention was focused. But they're operating within
34 the upper part of Unit 18, between Russian Mission and
35 Marshall, perhaps maybe up to Paimiut, but, you know,
36 they're operating where it's most economical for them
37 to operate.

38
39 Mr. Chairman, I believe that's it for
40 my testimony and I'd available to answer questions if
41 any one of you might have questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council members you
44 have any questions. Greg.

45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Tim,
47 would you have any -- in light of what the Board of
48 Game, the action that they took on a similar proposal
49 to deal with the amounts necessary and looking towards
50 the development of a management plan, you know, I was

1 at that meeting as well, but AVCP didn't have a vote in
2 there of the Advisory Committee Chairs and
3 representatives that were made up the core of that
4 meeting, and do you see value or worth of incorporating
5 this into that kind of an effort to try to, over the
6 course of the next year, the Board said to try to
7 gather more information to develop more comprehensive
8 numbers for the amounts necessary and work towards a
9 moose management plan also taking into consideration
10 the possible reopening of the Kuskokwim side in 18
11 since the moratorium will be ending at the end of this
12 calendar year.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Through the Chair. Yes.
15 There's an incredible value in taking an issue like
16 this and bring it before a moose management planning
17 committee or before the Western Regional Council to
18 develop. And also include all the user groups and
19 perhaps involving the Regional Advisory Councils, the
20 Federal Management System so that we have comprehensive
21 moose management plan for the area. You know I've seen
22 the process in Unit 21E, I've seen the working process
23 in Unit 19 and I believe it is beneficial for the
24 people to be working together for a common purpose to
25 try and build and sustain the populations while
26 protecting subsistence as a priority.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Greg.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: (Nods affirmatively)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
33 for Tim.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before Tim goes, there
38 was a couple questions that were asked that I would
39 like to get answers to, that pertains somewhat to this
40 proposal and there was a couple of questions that were
41 raised, where did the Department get the bull/cow ratio
42 numbers from.

43

44 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. This is
45 Terry Haynes. I don't have that information for you
46 and I wasn't clear on the exact question that Mr.
47 Andrew was asking, but if that question was repeated I
48 would certainly do my best to get that information. I
49 won't be able to get it right away but I'll certainly
50 get it for you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, just to make
2 sure that the horse got the right language that's
3 needed, Tim, do you want to come up and ask your
4 question, please.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on Page
7 53 of the YKRAC manual there is a bull/cow ratio that's
8 indicated on there, I don't know if this is -- I think
9 this is an area that OSM might have produced or might
10 have been the Alaska Department of Fish and Game numbers
11 indicates various bull to cow ratios. But in the moose
12 management report done in December 2004 indicated that
13 on Page 271 no sex composition information is available
14 from these surveys because they were conducted during
15 the winter after antlers were shed. And I was confused
16 as to where those bull/cow ratios came from, if they
17 were not in the moose comprehensive management report,
18 where do those numbers come from.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have the
23 question, Terry.

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I
26 don't have an answer for you. I don't know if that's a
27 question that Mr. DeMatteo might be able to -- he could
28 speak to the numbers that he's used in his Staff
29 analysis and I don't know if that would be helpful to
30 you or not.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. DeMatteo.

33
34 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr.
35 Andrew's comment is about on Page 53, did he say which
36 census block he was referring to, the Andreafsky census
37 block or the Paimiut census block at the top of Page
38 53.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't understand --
41 I wasn't able to understand that, I don't know if the
42 rest of you guys did. I don't think any of us
43 understood what you asked there.

44
45 MR. DEMATTEO: He said he had a
46 question on -- he questions the bull/cow ratio that's
47 used in the analysis on Page 53, where on Page 53 is he
48 referring to.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Tim.

1 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair, if I may.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
4
5 MR. ANDREW: It's on the second
6 paragraph down the Paimiut census block.
7
8 MR. DEMATTEO: Okay, give me one second
9 here.
10
11 (Pause)
12
13 MR. DEMATTEO: Bull/cow ratio 58/100,
14 you're referring to the bull/cow ratio of 58 per 100
15 cows; is that correct?
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Yes, that's
18 correct.
19
20 MR. DEMATTEO: That is correct. I
21 guess I'd have to pass this off to the Refuge because
22 these were collected in 19 -- these are from the 2001
23 composition counts that were collected -- let's see
24 here, these were collected by the Refuge and if there
25 is anyone there representing the Refuge still maybe
26 they could speak to this. But this analysis was done
27 as a cooperative effort between several people. And
28 being's I'm here in Anchorage, I don't actually collect
29 survey data in the field, and I rely to the Department
30 of Fish and Game and also to the Refuge for
31 information. Maybe there's someone else there that can
32 refer to those numbers.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The only guy that
35 would probably know is standing right there.
36
37 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair. Council
38 members. Hollis Twitchell. Before my time on the
39 Refuge, so I couldn't be able to definitively say who
40 did the actual surveys in the years in question. But I
41 know that Rearden and Philip Perry annually go up and
42 fly segments of the Yukon for composition counts data
43 so I would defer to someone who has longer tenure on
44 the Refuge than I do. But I know that that's something
45 that ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife very often would do in
46 conjunction with each other on an annual basis.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. You
49 know I have the same problem that Tim has, you know,
50 when you're actually trying to get a proposal done and

1 you're depending on numbers, and the numbers one
2 publication states one thing and another publication
3 states another thing; it's kind of hard to come up with
4 a realistic type of proposal. So I see where Tim is
5 coming from. And it would be a -- maybe for the
6 future, in case you don't have an answer to this, would
7 it be possible for you to investigate where those
8 numbers came from and if they're close to what we are
9 -- what we have right now in that area?

10

11 MR. TWITCHELL: Most certainly I would
12 be happy to do that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you be happy
15 with that Tim.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: I'm sorry.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was just stating
20 that, you know, that -- what did I just ask you?

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. TWITCHELL: You asked me if I would
25 research on where those composition numbers came from.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

28

29 MR. TWITCHELL: And then get back to
30 you and the Council.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And make sure that
33 they're correct.

34

35 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, I will do that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. And
38 another question that was asked is where do the Tier II
39 permits come from and who publishes them and how do you
40 know -- how do you find out who gets those.

41

42 MR. ANDREW: State.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody got an answer
45 to that.

46

47 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. This is
48 Terry Haynes. The Tier II permit process is
49 administered by the Department of Fish and Game and
50 there is an application process that people go through

1 to determine what their score would be to see if they
2 would be able to obtain a Tier II permit. Once that
3 process is complete, the list of people who receive
4 Tier II permits is available for the public to see.
5 And there's information about this process on the
6 Department of Fish and Game website. There will also
7 be a Tier II supplement kind of a newspaper supplement
8 with applications that will be -- I'm sure they'll be
9 available in the Bethel Office -- Bethel Fish and Game
10 Office when they're released, but certainly if Mr.
11 Andrew has further questions or needs more information,
12 he should feel free to call me in the Fairbanks Fish
13 and Game office and I'll be happy to help him as best I
14 can.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Thank you,
17 Hollis. Okay, we are now down to InterAgency Staff
18 Committee comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We don't have any
23 InterAgency -- I keep forgetting that. Fish and Game
24 Local Advisory comments. James.

25
26 MR. CHARLES: No comment.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment. Summary
29 of written public comments. Alex.

30
31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We received, to
32 my knowledge, one summary of -- one comment in
33 opposition of the proposal.

34
35 And at this point I would like to read
36 the other Council's actions on this.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39
40 MR. NICK: Western Interior opposed the
41 proposal. And their justification for opposition is
42 determination is not needed. Adopting would have
43 negative effect on users outside -- excuse me, I was
44 reading the wrong one. Going back to justification for
45 Western Interior, they opposed the proposal, and their
46 justification for opposing is status of moose
47 population does not warrant closure.

48
49 And Seward -- rather Southcentral, I
50 think -- I'm sorry, that's the only one that acted on

1 this.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have the
4 Council comments, or did you already do those.

5

6 MR. NICK: I did already.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

9

10 MR. NICK: Their justification, rather,
11 for opposition.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public
14 testimony.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I had submitted a blue card indicating that I would
18 like to do a personal testimony on this issue and for
19 this portion of the testimony I'm going to be
20 representing our village corporation and the community
21 of Marshall, and some of it is going to be from my own
22 personal observations. The Marshall Village
23 Corporation owns over 115,000 acres within the
24 community of Marshall or around the community of
25 Marshall, some extending down between Marshall and
26 Pilot Station and the up river boundaries going between
27 Marshall and the Old Village of Ohagmiut. And like I
28 had indicated in my testimony representing AVCP is that
29 some of the permits that were issued were really very,
30 very close to our corporation boundaries in fact it was
31 totally unreasonable -- we feel that it was
32 unreasonable that these permits were issued so close to
33 our boundaries and it appears that trespass would be
34 inevitable. I don't see how they could avoid it. I'm
35 sorry I didn't bring the map with me today but I would
36 be able to show you within a closed river system, that
37 where the camp was located to where the edge of our
38 boundary was, was not even 1,200, 1,500 feet away, it
39 was very, very close to our boundaries, and we own the
40 waters within that area and when I flew over that camp
41 I saw a raft with a small engine attached to it. I saw
42 two camps -- or two tents that were located at that
43 camp and there's no other way that others can possibly
44 get in except by float plane.

45

46 And we've seen a lot of float plane
47 activity occur within the area since it opened -- since
48 the Federal lands opened to non-Federally qualified
49 hunters. And when I went to hunt in the area it was in
50 September or latter part of September -- I mean there

1 was constant buzzing, I heard planes from the time I
2 woke up in the morning until I went to bed at night,
3 it's just totally unbelievable. The quality of the
4 hunt is no longer there. Where we used to be in
5 relative peace and quiet with the exception of an
6 occasional passing airplane which would be the
7 scheduled flights going in between Bethel and Marshall
8 and perhaps an occasional law enforcement plane that
9 would come over from either Fish and Wildlife Service
10 or with the ABWE now, the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife
11 Enforcement, but now it's continuous, it's just buzz,
12 buzz, buzz, buzz. In fact my (In Yup'ik) and I, we
13 were calling a moose out that was way back in the sand
14 bar, we were calling it out, we saw one of these planes
15 heading off from the camp over to Bethel and he saw the
16 moose -- or the pilot saw the moose and headed toward
17 the moose and us and buzzed right over the moose,
18 luckily the moose didn't think nothing of it, we didn't
19 get the moose anyway but, you know, that type of
20 activity is starting to occur.

21

22 And we've heard from a number of people
23 in the community of Marshall that indicate that, you
24 know, it's too noisy to hunt up in the Devil's Elbow
25 area anymore, it's too noisy to hunt in Gweek, you
26 know, the upper portion of that traditional hunting
27 area. I mean the peace and tranquility of the hunt,
28 the quality of the hunt is no longer there.

29

30 We've also heard from various people
31 that the planes that did come in since the lifting of
32 -- the non-Federally qualified hunting season occurred,
33 the planes are landing just about anywhere and
34 everywhere, they landed on a vegetated sand bar, which
35 I believe belongs to the neighboring village
36 corporation, and some of the local people have talked
37 to these hunters and they said they caught a 66-inch
38 moose a ways back and they retrieved it, and they
39 didn't see any evidence and, you know, those types of
40 things, just I mean there's a tremendous amount of user
41 conflicts that are starting to occur and I feel that as
42 the year progresses, if we continue to do this without
43 careful planning that we will see user conflicts
44 escalating in an area that never used to have user
45 conflicts.

46

47 And that concludes my testimony, Mr.

48 Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tim. Any

1 questions for Tim.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Regional
6 Advisory Council deliberation.

7

8 MR. HOELSCHER: Public.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Public, go ahead. My
11 eyes need to move a little bit faster.

12

13 MR. SIMEON: That's all right. I know
14 Tim had stated that it wasn't his intent to keep
15 residents of Aniak, upper and lower Kalskag and
16 Chuathbaluk, the villages that have a customary and
17 traditional determination to hunt over there, I know he
18 stated that it wasn't his intent to keep us out but the
19 fact of the matter is that a lot of times is when the
20 Federal system opens up a hunt it's for Unit 18
21 residents only. They have that authority to
22 differentiate and say which part is open, the State
23 does not have that authority, they have to leave it
24 open to everyone.

25

26 So I would ask that you include our
27 villages by name specifically so that there is no
28 confusion as to whether or not we would be excluded if
29 this proposal passes.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
34 public testimony. Hollis.

35

36 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair. Council
37 members. I missed the chance to talk a little bit
38 further on this proposal when I was up here before.
39 But there's a number of issues that have been raised,
40 and concerns I should probably speak to.

41

42 At the beginning, last winter.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pardon me, for
45 interrupting but for the record you need to.....

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I know you know what
50 you need to do but for the record would you please

1 state your name and affiliation, please.

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Oh, yes. Hollis
4 Twitchell, Yukon-Delta Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

7

8 MR. TWITCHELL: There was questions
9 raised in terms of the Refuge issuing permits for
10 transporters who carry clients on to the Refuge so I'd
11 like to speak to that a bit if I could.

12

13 Last winter, as we learned of the
14 change in regulations that would open it to other than
15 Unit 18 residents, the Refuge manager sat down with a
16 map and drew a line around the Yukon River watershed
17 areas that were boat accessible and any place that was
18 boat accessible in terms of the rivers and sloughs,
19 that area was determined to be off limits for any
20 commercial operator to conduct business or carry
21 clients into that area.

22

23 We then met with the four transporters
24 that are authorized under the special use permit from
25 the Refuge to provide transportation services and
26 informed them of areas that they were excluded from any
27 operations on for transporting hunters. So the areas
28 along the Yukon were boat accessible, it was
29 administratively determined we were not going to allow
30 any commercial carrier to transport hunters into those
31 areas, which, indeed, is a condition of their permit to
32 operate.

33

34 We have four transporters. Last year
35 they carried 22 clients on to Refuge lands and out of
36 those 22 clients there were eight successful in taking
37 a moose. The conditions of their permit also was very
38 explicit that their operations had to be solely on
39 Refuge lands. They could not utilize any Native
40 allotments or corporation lands since we don't have any
41 jurisdiction to do that. The transporters can be, and
42 are fairly closely regulated through the permitting
43 system. What is a difficulty and a challenge is other
44 Alaska residents who have access to aircraft that fly
45 into the area. They don't necessarily know where
46 Refuge lands are and where private corporations or
47 Native allotment lands are, and that's not an entity
48 that we have any oversight over. So there is a problem
49 and there is an issue with non-locals flying in and
50 accessing the area and not being knowledgeable of where

1 these private lands are.

2

3 So I just wanted to mention that, to
4 let you know how we approach the issue, and we'll
5 certainly continue to operate along those lines in the
6 future.

7

8 That being and closure to any areas
9 that are boat accessible on the Yukon River, operations
10 only on Refuge lands and clearly stated that no
11 operations are allowed on any Native allotment or
12 private corporation lands.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

15

16 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
19 Hollis.

20

21 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. On Page 54 you have the harvest reports for
23 December 20, '06 to January 20, '07, and you indicate
24 down below there that you would have the fall numbers
25 available, do you have those available for the area?

26

27 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm sorry, Edgar, I had
28 walked away and lost concentration, so I missed your
29 question.

30

31 MR. HOELSCHER: Okay. On Page 54 you
32 have the harvest information for 12/20/06 to 1/20/07,
33 right, and then it's noted down there that you would
34 have the fall '07 harvest information available, do you
35 have that available?

36

37 MR. TWITCHELL: For Unit 18 or for 19A.

38

39 MR. HOELSCHER: 18 more likely.

40

41 MR. TWITCHELL: Oh, for 18, no, I don't
42 have that information available with me right now. I
43 certainly can query that and get back to you at a later
44 time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you would,
47 appreciate that.

48

49 MR. TWITCHELL: I will.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
2 further questions for Hollis. James.
3
4 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
5 Hollis.....
6
7 MS. GREGORY: Hollis, sit down. Don't
8 get up until he dismisses you.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Hollis, how about to issue permit, does the -- do you
14 issue the permit only to the transporter or the hunter,
15 too, or do -- or just one permit?
16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: The permit is just to
18 the transporter for the purposes of providing
19 commercial access on to the Refuge lands. So that's
20 the only regulatory oversight that we have over him, is
21 that of a commercial operation.
22
23 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
26 -- before I thank you I'm going to make sure I ask if
27 there's any further questions for Hollis, from the
28 Council.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, An'Anaq for
33 straightening me out.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Hollis.
38
39 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to any
42 more public testimony before we step on down to
43 deliberations.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Last call.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Regional
2 Advisory Council deliberations, recommendations and
3 make sure that you get a justification, right, did you
4 get the justification for the last one that was acted
5 on?

6
7 MS. PETRIVELLI: (Nods affirmatively)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, are you the one
10 that's keeping the justifications.

11
12 REPORTER: Pat.

13
14 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, I wrote down the
15 justifications for 08-05, do you want to read it now
16 or.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, as long as you
19 have that justification.

20
21 MS. PETRIVELLI: Just later, okay. And
22 I'll be taking notes and so whenever someone makes the
23 motion I'll write it down and then -- but I will review
24 it with you later and I don't know if you'd want to go
25 over it with the rest of the Council or they could pass
26 it around.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: If they wanted to add
31 anything to it but just to make sure you talk about it
32 on the record.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
35 Justification on No. 33. Members of the Council.

36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: There's no motion on the
38 table.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's on the table
41 to adopt.....

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE:Proposal WP08-33.
46 Do I hear a second to the motion.

47
48 REPORTER: No, Lester, there's no
49 motion yet.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do I hear a second to
6 the motion, Mary, do you second it.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: (Nods affirmatively)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further -- any
11 discussion.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Greg, go ahead.
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: I was raising my hand to
18 make a motion, there has been no motion yet and our
19 recorder over there knows that it isn't on the record.
20
21 I move to support Proposal No. 08-33.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion -- there's
24 already a motion on the floor to support.
25
26 MS. GREGORY: No.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was not -- Tina,
29 was there a motion?
30
31 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was not, okay.
34 I thought I heard it.
35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: There was no motion I
37 just made the motion on the record, I was raising my
38 hand and asking.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do you have
41 that on record now.
42
43 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do I hear a
46 second to the motion.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Second to Greg's motion,
49 Proposal 33.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gregory -- Mrs.
2 Gregory's made a second to the motion, got that.
3
4 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: Question.
9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.
13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: I did want to -- I was
15 waiting until we got to the discussion to ask some of
16 these questions. Mr. DeMatteo, are you still on line
17 there?
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
20
21 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes, I am.
22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: One thing I'm curious
24 about is in that initial discussion on the analysis for
25 this proposal it mentions about a -- that there's been
26 cooperative moose management plans that have been
27 developed for the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River
28 portions of Unit 18 and are the management guidelines
29 utilized by resource managers and I am trying to think
30 of an actual plan that's been put into place for the
31 Kuskokwim, the Central Kuskokwim has, were you
32 referring, by chance, to the agreement between the
33 Advisory Committees and the local users and the
34 managers on the moratorium as a management plan?
35
36 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes. The Central
37 Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan, yes, that's exactly
38 what I was referring to.
39
40 MR. ROCZICKA: The Central Kuskokwim
41 Moose Management Plan refers to GMU 19A, it does not
42 affect GMU 18.
43
44 MR. DEMATTEO: Is that -- I'm sorry,
45 maybe I'm not hearing you correctly, are you referring
46 to the moose moratorium on the lower Kuskokwim?
47
48 MR. ROCZICKA: I'm referring to in the
49 Staff analysis under discussion on Page 46, the very
50 last sentence, says, that so far cooperative moose

1 management plans have been developed for the Yukon
2 River and Kuskokwim River portions of Unit 18 and are
3 the management guidelines utilized by resource managers
4 and I am trying to think of where, other than the
5 agreements that resulted in proposals going forward and
6 regulatory action for moratoriums, I don't know of any.
7 There was the lower Yukon Moose Management Plan that
8 was developed immediately following the lifting of
9 their moratorium back in 1994.

10

11 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Roczicka, I think we
12 were speaking more generally, we were referring to the
13 moratorium that had passed in the lower Yukon in years
14 past, the one that went through '98 through 2004, I
15 believe. I think that's what we were referring to.

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. But what about
18 the Kuskokwim River then, it says and Kuskokwim River
19 portions of Unit 18.

20

21 MR. DEMATTEO: There is a management
22 plan for there, there's the management plan also which
23 has an implementation plan involving for that area,
24 yes.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: It's not one that's been
27 involved the users then because I think I've been to
28 just about all of those. The purpose I'm asking that
29 is because in speaking to support of this proposal, and
30 I do intend to support it, is that I agree
31 wholeheartedly with what's been brought out here, as
32 far as getting a management plan in place and I don't
33 believe there is one, again, there's only been in
34 agreements as far as the Kuskokwim goes. And putting
35 the moratorium forward and saying, we're going to have
36 our goal of a thousand moose before we.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm going to have to
39 call order to -- call us back to order, we're
40 discussing Proposal 33.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: That's correct, Page 46,
43 third paragraph, second paragraph under discussion,
44 last sentence.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I thought there
47 was another item down here, lower -- for Unit 19A, I
48 thought since you were discussing that area I thought
49 maybe you were in the wrong area but since you are, go
50 ahead, Greg, I'm sorry.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: The only formal moose
2 management plan on the Kuskokwim that I'm aware of is
3 the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan and there
4 is the -- in 19D around McGrath, they have the
5 emergency management area and a predator control
6 implementation plan in place there as well, but there
7 hasn't been one done in Unit 18 other than -- unless --
8 the -- getting back to the heart of the matter as far
9 as coming up with this amounts necessary for
10 subsistence, that, as Mr. Andrew stated in his
11 testimony and we've heard over the course of meetings
12 over the years and it's pretty well agreed by all,
13 except perhaps maybe those that don't want to deal with
14 it, that 80 to 100 moose is totally unrealistic, it's
15 something to have on the books.

16
17 And I guess since Mr. Buklis came up to
18 sit here, I'd like to ask how does the Federal Board
19 determine under the .804 analysis, or .803 analysis, I
20 forget which, but when you restrict down to your Tier
21 II hunts, even though you have several villages with
22 customary and traditional use, and you cut it down,
23 where do you make the determination that there's enough
24 and what do you consider to be your responsibility to
25 provide for -- or is there any responsibility taken,
26 again, where do you get that balance between the Board
27 making the regulation and the managers having the
28 management, you guys have to have that interaction,
29 where does -- how do you do that without, in any kind
30 of responsible fashion, without having some kind of set
31 of subsistence numbers to work with?

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.

34
35 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
36 Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management. You're
37 correct that the Federal Program does not have
38 subsistence use amounts of record. Some of the hunts
39 and fisheries have harvest quotas or permit harvest
40 limits and so those are numbers that we can work with.
41 And you mentioned .804, which is a restriction, as you
42 know, of eligible users to a smaller group, based on
43 historical use, proximity and access to alternative
44 resources because the resource in question is not
45 sufficient to meet all of the needs or demands on the
46 resource. And we don't have a numerical system for
47 calculating that, you're right. We don't have an
48 amounts needed for subsistence number that drives an
49 .804 analysis, but we have historical harvest amounts,
50 but we don't have these benchmarks established.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: And you don't consider
2 it any onness or responsibility on the Board to provide
3 a management structure or achieve or work towards goals
4 to return to traditional harvest levels that were there
5 for years upon years upon years upon -- for
6 generations, and there's been -- you know, the
7 habitat's been in fine shape, all your environmental
8 factors are fine, you'd be -- again, how do you --
9 where is the responsibility to -- or where is there
10 some kind of measuring point to provide direction for
11 management to manage a population to provide for
12 subsistence, you need to have some kind of a measure
13 there.

14
15 Well, I guess.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis, you have
18 an answer.

19
20 MR. BUKLIS: The Federal Subsistence
21 Program -- the purpose of the Federal Subsistence
22 Program is to provide for subsistence uses under
23 ANILCA, and there are -- there was an initiative to
24 look at subsistence use amounts in partnership with the
25 State and their amounts needed for subsistence system,
26 those discussions were suspended a few years ago and we
27 may return to that initiative but at the present time
28 we don't have specific numbers in our program as use
29 amounts to be provided for. But the priority is to be
30 provided for and the system is responsive to proposals
31 and special action requests from users pursuing the
32 amounts they need for their subsistence. So the Board
33 and the system are responsive to the requests.

34
35 Now, the specific issue at hand is Unit
36 18 moose and the closure that was lifted. I'm
37 perceiving from your points that you're saying that
38 because we don't have subsistence use amounts or
39 perhaps not agreement on amounts needed that many
40 people have said, seem too low, that it's premature to
41 lift the closure. We don't see the lifting of the
42 closure having to wait to develop that new number
43 because the resource appears to be abundant and
44 available for harvest to meet local needs, the priority
45 need, and not require a closure that keeps out other
46 users.

47
48 It's an assessment that's made.

49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'm

1 sorry, I didn't want to get into a debate. But back to
2 the proposal here, that may be true on the Yukon but it
3 is certainly not on the Kuskokwim and that moratorium
4 is scheduled to come up this year, there may possibly
5 be a new opening, do we want to have another opening
6 come in that's going to essentially be another Tier II
7 system or how could a Tier II system work on the lower
8 Kuskokwim with the number of users that are there.
9 Many people would like to see a season put into place
10 that could allow for a broad participation and there's
11 several folks, I might as well say it now, as well,
12 that are very concerned about even having the opening,
13 or opening it up even though the five years are over,
14 so people are looking -- I've had people coming -- and
15 not just from my village, from surrounding villages as
16 well, stop me on the street, stop me, come knock on my
17 door, come to my office, wherever, they don't want to
18 see their last five years go down the drain if we open
19 too early. And we have to -- like it or not, we're the
20 ones that have to deal with this on the ground, even
21 though the State and Feds have their two separate
22 parts, it gets back to we need to have some kind of
23 cooperative effort to go forward.

24
25 And on the State side, these ANS
26 numbers drive, they control what kind of a hunt you're
27 going to have, whether it's a limited registration hunt
28 where everybody gets a chance to participate or whether
29 you're going to end up in a Tier II hunt, I'm looking
30 at -- if we tried to open on the Kuskokwim right now
31 under a Federal hunt, how -- you're putting yourself in
32 a mess, you don't have any kind of measure to work
33 with. So that -- number 1 that has to be addressed,
34 and that has to be the recommendation and whether the
35 -- the Board needs to deal with this, and that needs to
36 be taken up.

37
38 That other Item 3, about putting
39 together a moose management plan, I mean you can call
40 your alternative resources that there's that extra
41 amount on the Kuskokwim, but we have to -- I mean extra
42 harvestable surplus that's on the lower Yukon may
43 provide some spill over so that you can avoid Tier II
44 and things of that nature, but all of this needs to be
45 really looked at hard and seriously as a region.

46
47 And so I'm hoping where I'm getting to
48 with this is that I want the recommendation to go
49 forward that the Federal Board would support the effort
50 going forward and give their staff and their people and

1 their participation from the Regional Councils, to
2 participate in a planning process, that was approved at
3 the Board of Game level that's made up of -- and
4 they're going to be utilizing their regional council
5 system that has remained on the books even though it
6 hasn't been utilized since the Federal takeover and
7 following the McDowell Decision in 1992, it's still on
8 the books. So they're going to be having a group get
9 together starting in late July. It's made up of the
10 Chairmans of the five Advisory Committees or their
11 representatives, that have jurisdiction in GMU 18,
12 that's lower Kuskokwim, central Kuskokwim, Stony
13 Holitna Advisory Committee, lower Yukon and Central
14 Bering Sea, and along with that they included, as well,
15 since we are dealing with amounts necessary, they're
16 including the Chairman of the GASH Advisory Committee
17 as well, to have them represented. So for the Federal
18 system to fully participate, as they should, and it
19 should be their responsibility, whether they choose to
20 take it, they should have a representative from both --
21 two representatives, from the Western Interior and two
22 from this body here, one from Kuskokwim and one from
23 Yukon to participate in that process to develop some
24 ANS numbers that are realistic and address GMU 18, as a
25 whole, and brings in the cross-boundary considerations
26 and to come up with a management plan. And what they
27 have asked for is an amended proposal to come back to
28 them in the spring of 2009 that may include a possible
29 opening on the Kuskokwim side of Unit 18 that could
30 potentially have a hunt opened by the fall of 2009.
31 That's been requested and that's what's going forward.

32
33 And so what I'd like to come forward
34 with as an endorsement from this Council and hopefully
35 the endorsement of the Federal Subsistence Board.

36
37 They can't keep running away from these
38 problems, they're not going away, they're making it
39 worse and unless they want to ignore practical,
40 practical application in management, if their intent is
41 really to protect subsistence they need to deal with
42 these issues, they can't run away no more.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg. Go
45 ahead.

46
47 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I know you
48 don't want debate, I just wanted to comment that I left
49 out, when I was talking about Federal subsistence use
50 amounts, in concept, that one concern is that ANS or

1 SUAs not be seen as a limit on subsistence, that they
2 not be a cap on subsistence. It's, if we move into
3 subsistence use amounts it's meant to be, as you've
4 described, a guide for management to factor in likely
5 uses by different users as you look at the size of
6 population of animals, but it's not meant to limit the
7 growth or future of subsistence.

8
9 So that's one concern that needs to be
10 kept in mind.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: And those numbers have
15 traditionally been dealt with as the minimums.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, everybody happy.

18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

24
25 MR. NICK: In hoping to keep you along
26 the same line, you know, based on your previous
27 position on the amounts needed for -- subsistence use
28 amounts, was it, as you remember -- most of you
29 remember you met in Emmonak, and a document was
30 presented to you by the Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game which.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Amounts necessary for
34 subsistence.

35
36 MR. NICK:which deals with the
37 amounts needed for subsistence use, or something like
38 that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Amounts necessary for
41 subsistence.

42
43 MR. NICK: Yeah. And then your action,
44 Council -- YK Council action was this, and you could
45 correct me if I'm wrong on this, you wanted the Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game to hold off on that until
47 they present you updated amounts.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: ANS.

50

1 MR. NICK: ANS, rather, yeah, and I
2 haven't seen that. My understanding is that ANS term
3 which Alaska Department of Fish and Game uses is same
4 as SUA that we use on Federal side, and it was my
5 understanding and I think it might be correct, Larry
6 could correct me, or somebody from Fish and Game, that
7 State is still on the lead on this. I could be wrong
8 but, you know, I thought it would be good to get
9 correct information while you're deliberating and I
10 bring that up.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thanks, Alex. Go
15 ahead.

16
17 MR. PAPPAS: Terry, you on.

18
19 MR. HAYNES: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Terry.

22
23 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. As Mr.
24 Buklis pointed out, the Department, Office of
25 Subsistence Management, Federal agencies and
26 representatives from the Regional Advisory Councils
27 were working on a subsistence use amounts protocol and
28 work has been delayed on that but the goal was to start
29 with the State's amounts necessary for subsistence and
30 to evaluate their appropriateness as numbers that could
31 be used in the Federal regulatory process. But nothing
32 is in place right now in the Federal system. So the
33 term, subsistence use amounts is how the Federal
34 Program was referring to what the State calls amounts
35 necessary for subsistence. But the Federal System
36 currently is not using any numbers as guidelines in
37 evaluating when opportunities for Federally-qualified
38 subsistence users have been provided.

39
40 Now, in terms of the Unit 18 amount
41 necessary for subsistence, that certainly would benefit
42 from having additional research done in Unit 18
43 communities. I don't know if research is going to be
44 recommended as part of this process that will take
45 place this summer, or if this group will just evaluate
46 existing information to come up with recommendations
47 for what might be appropriate revisions for the amounts
48 necessary for subsistence.

49
50 One of the big problems, of course, is

1 that research is expensive and the Department, Division
2 of Subsistence has very limited funding for that
3 purpose and so if a recommendation was made to conduct
4 additional household surveys or other kinds of research
5 in Unit 18 communities, sources of funding would have
6 to be found to enable that research to be done.

7

8 But I guess we'll just have to wait to
9 see whether the group this summer is going to be able
10 to develop recommendations that are supported by
11 information and if that information will be adequate
12 for the Board of Game to make changes to the existing
13 amounts necessary for subsistence.

14

15 Does that answer your question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess that does. I
18 was thinking something else, I'm sorry, I didn't --
19 yes, I guess that's the answer, or I think what our
20 problem was at the time was that there was the -- the
21 amounts necessary for subsistence were needed at the
22 time as Nick stated, at that meeting down at Emmonak,
23 in order to determine the amount of harvest and the
24 amount of surplus within the area. And those -- as
25 Greg stated, those numbers are needed ASAP so some of
26 these proposals that are coming forward could be
27 deliberated a little bit more and closer to the bone
28 and get the numbers in there, so that -- because of the
29 other users wanting to come in this area, we want to
30 make sure that subsistence numbers in our Unit 18 are
31 fair and that all the users within Unit 18 are
32 represented in that count.

33

34 That's all I had to say.

35

36 James -- I'm sorry, Edgar, you had
37 something.

38

39 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman. Mr. Andrew, Proposal 08-33 requests a
41 closure of Federal public lands to non-Federally
42 qualified users, if you go to Page 54 right in the
43 middle there, right below the harvest, adoption of the
44 proposal, you know, it's in effects -- adoption of the
45 proposal would decrease the total number of potential
46 hunters. And for instance, if they're Federally
47 qualified and non-qualified users, so my question --
48 and I think I can get a -- to the agency Staff is to,
49 you know, clarify, you know, decrease number of
50 Federally-qualified users.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. DeMatteo, did
4 you.....

5

6 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair, I had
7 difficulty hearing the gentleman's question, could you
8 repeat that for me.

9

10 MR. HOELSCHER: In regards to the
11 proposal under -- right in the middle of Page 54,
12 adoption of the proposal will decrease the total number
13 of potential hunters and right in there it indicates
14 also Federally-qualified and non-qualified users, can
15 you get a clarification on that.

16

17 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes. As I mentioned
18 before there is some concern that the total harvest
19 that's occurring right now, okay, with Federally-
20 qualified and non-qualified hunters, it is not enough
21 to keep this population in check, so it does not over
22 browse and does not suffer further declines, so, that
23 is one concern that if the Federal Board adopts this
24 proposal, okay, there'll be less hunters than there are
25 now and right now the harvest is not high enough to
26 keep these number of moose that there in check before
27 they start overbrowsing. Does that make sense?

28

29 MR. HOELSCHER: I thought numbers were
30 high in that portion, the lowest Yukon.

31

32 MR. DEMATTEO: Say, again, please.

33

34 MR. HOELSCHER: According to the report
35 there, I thought those moose numbers were high in the
36 lowest Yukon; isn't that the area where we're talking
37 about?

38

39 MR. DEMATTEO: Because those numbers
40 are so high, if the proposal were adopted, and the
41 closure was put back in place, you'd have less hunters
42 than you do now, and the concern is there's not enough
43 hunters now, okay, to keep the numbers down so that
44 these moose do not overbrowse their habitat.

45

46 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you. I wanted a
47 clarification in regards to Federally-qualified users.

48

49 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.
2
3 MR. BUKLIS: One minute Pete.
4
5 MR. DEMATTEO: Well, I think that was
6 just.....
7
8 MR. BUKLIS: Pete.
9
10 MR. DEMATTEO:in regards to
11 controlling the number of potential hunters.....
12
13 MR. BUKLIS: Pete, hold, please
14 one.....
15
16 REPORTER: Wait, the microphone isn't
17 on. Larry, the microphone.....
18
19 MR. DEMATTEO:is that equals the
20 Federally-qualified and the non-Federally qualified
21 users. In other words all the hunters that hunt there
22 equal the number of hunters. So if you cut out one
23 component, which is the non-Federally qualified then
24 you'd have less than you'd have now.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Larry.
27
28 MR. DEMATTEO: Does that help.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that enough.
31
32 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 If I could help Pete. There's two aspects to the
34 question, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it.
35
36 One is the overall point that Mr.
37 DeMatteo responded to at first is that the current
38 numbers of hunters without a closure is not seen as
39 sufficient to keep the number of moose, or the take,
40 the current take is not keeping pace with the expansion
41 of population of animals, and so to impose a closure,
42 in concept, would lower the number of hunters and
43 contribute to the expansion of the moose population
44 beyond its capacity. That's the principle.
45
46 The second point that I got from the
47 question is a detail point, Pete, and that is that the
48 point is in parenthesis you reference Federally-
49 qualified and non-qualified, but the closure we're
50 speaking of would limit non-qualified people, so why

1 did we put in that detail point of Federally-qualified.
2 Is that really relevant to the closure being imposed?

3

4 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Buklis.
5 As I mentioned before, that's referenced to what I'm
6 referring to the total number of potential hunters,
7 that would be defined as all hunters, be it Federally-
8 qualified and non-Federally qualified. That's just a
9 reference explaining what the total number of potential
10 hunters are, that's all I meant by that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

13

14 MR. HOELSCHER: I wanted a
15 clarification, that's all I wanted.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
18 questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the wish of
23 the Council. Mr. Greg.

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 I guess just to clarify for the record in regards to --
27 we've certainly heard the Staff analysis and what's
28 been raised here, and with a 80 to 100 amounts
29 necessary on the books, certainly there's -- people can
30 say that subsistence needs are being meet and same all
31 the way to whatever, we can take the existing harvest
32 that's been going on for the last couple years of two
33 to 300 and call that what's been the need there, and
34 even at this point in time what they're saying, we have
35 a harvestable surplus that's twice of that, so people
36 that are being worried of an effort going forward to
37 essentially cut them out of the process, are being --
38 are making paranoid noises in my mind.

39

40 I guess I'd just like to, again, have
41 it clear on the record, is regardless of the Board's
42 eventual disposal of our action regarding this
43 proposal, that they do need to participate, we do need
44 to deal with these amounts necessary and have something
45 that's accurate on the books and what it gets to,
46 again, is that these numbers drive management actions,
47 and on the Federal side, although they don't recognize
48 numbers, to do that, what it does -- will it will
49 result in is if the populations do go down in the
50 future, where is that going to be that point where

1 you're going to see that red flag come out and say that
2 this is the time that we cut out on subsistence and --
3 or, you know, non-Federally qualified users, where is
4 that point, that's something that you get right now,
5 actually, to deal with these numbers, you're coming
6 from a position of strength and they should be in
7 support of doing that because we have a strong and
8 growing population over there, the lower Kuskokwim is
9 looking to follow along the same ways if we can keep
10 that same track as low -- that was successful on the
11 lower Yukon, we're in a position of strength here, they
12 shouldn't run in fear from something like this -- it's
13 got a chance to put in protection for subsistence in
14 the long term.

15

16 So they need to deal with these things,
17 quit being so afraid.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I aim to
22 support this proposal because I think it's only fair
23 that the Native people are given a chance to hunt -- if
24 we open it to everybody we need to open it to us people
25 too, and if we're going to close it up for non-
26 subsistence users then we are saving -- like putting
27 money away in a savings for our use, and like I said
28 that somebody was saying, that there were -- somebody
29 was trophy hunting and they give the meat to people but
30 we don't know what people got it. And we need -- just
31 like they require us to have proof of what we're
32 saying, we need to get those proofs from those people
33 to-- to believe them. A lot of times we're not
34 believed. And we cannot just say what you're telling
35 us and take it for fact, we need proof of that too as
36 well.

37

38 So -- and I want to be fair to my
39 people and this is part of my conservation.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Any further
42 discussion.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The Chair will now --
47 if you have no further.....

48

49 MS. GREGORY: Call for the question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
2 for by Mary; is that correct.
3
4 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Have a roll call vote
7 on this, please.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. Greg
10 Roczicka.
11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Yep.
13
14 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
17
18 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.
19
20 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
21
22 MR. ONEY: Edgar Hoelscher.
23
24 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.
25
26 MR. ONEY: James Charles.
27
28 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
29
30 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
31
32 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
33
34 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, yes. Seven
35 yes, no no's.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion for support
38 of Proposal WP08-33 is passed. At this time we'll --
39 that was a long two hours, coffee time, coffee break
40 time, 3:00 o'clock, time for a break, 10 minutes --
41 3:10.
42
43 (Off record)
44
45 (On record)
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to WP08-
48 34, moose establish season, Pete DeMatteo and Mr. Larry
49 Buklis.
50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Larry Buklis, OSM. Mr. DeMatteo will start the
3 overview of the analysis and he and I have different
4 parts to cover, and so with your permission we'll go to
5 Pete on the phone.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That would be fine.
8 Okay, Pete.

9
10 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Larry. Mr.
11 Chair. The analysis of Proposal WP08-34 begins on Page
12 59 of your Council books. And Proposal 34 was
13 submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, who
14 request that the establishment of a moose season for
15 the portion of Unit 18 south of the Kanektok and Arolik
16 River drainages including the north and south mouth of
17 the Arolik River with a one bull harvest limit by
18 Federal registration permit.

19
20 The proponent also requests that the
21 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge manager be delegated
22 the authority to determine the season dates.

23
24 The intent of the proposal is to
25 establish a moose season on Federal public lands within
26 the proposed area by 2009 or earlier, which means as
27 soon as the moose population reaches a minimum of 100
28 moose prior to the fall of 2009 or if not the fall 2009
29 season. In requesting the season the proponent states
30 that the moose population in the affected area is
31 increasing in size and could be subject to a small
32 hunt.

33
34 Mr. Chair, the proposal area can be
35 seen on Map 1 in your books on Page 60. If you turn to
36 Page 60, Map 1 you could see the Goodnews River
37 drainage and just north of Goodnews Bay there you can
38 see the other drainages that are involved in this
39 proposed hunt which involves the Carter Creek, the
40 Indian River, the Cripple Creek and Jack Smith and also
41 one other creek, which is the Nanvakfak Lake and its
42 tributary. And also there's several tributaries in
43 there that are undocumented place names but they're
44 also involved in between some of those creeks.

45
46 The Federal public lands in this area
47 have been closed to moose hunting since 1991. The
48 State lands were opened to moose hunting until the
49 2005/2006 regulatory year. State lands were closed due
50 to concerns over a small, but increasing moose

1 population in the area, protect this population with
2 the hopes of growing the population so that it could
3 provide a limited hunting opportunity, a three year
4 moratorium on moose hunting on the Goodnews River
5 drainage was agreed to by the Togiak National Wildlife
6 Refuge, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the
7 Goodnews River Drainage Moose Advisory Committee and
8 the village councils of Goodnews Bay and Platinum.

9
10 The moratorium on moose hunting was put
11 in place beginning in the 2006/2007 regulatory year
12 with a sunset date of June 30, 2009.

13
14 Again, Mr. Chair, the parties jointly
15 agreed that hunting would remain closed until the
16 population reached 100 moose or until the three year
17 moratorium elapsed. The proposed regulations can be
18 found in your books on Page 61 at the top of the page.
19 Drainages affected by the proposed creek -- proposed
20 proposal, as I said before, again, are the Goodnews
21 River and those several creeks that I mentioned just
22 north of Goodnews Bay.

23
24 Rural residents of Unit 18 and upper
25 Kalskag have a positive customary and traditional use
26 determination for moose in Unit 18 remainder, which
27 includes the area affected by the proposal.

28
29 Winter surveys conducted in the
30 proposal area indicate that while the moose population
31 has experienced substantial growth it is still
32 considered a small and low density population.
33 However, based on recent population data from aerial
34 surveys conducted by the Togiak Refuge, the moose
35 population appears to be growing and exceeded the
36 threshold of 100 animals with a survey count of 113
37 moose from survey results that were conducted on
38 February the 15th of this year.

39
40 Mr. Chair, this population is
41 recovering from the days of total survey numbers of
42 less than five moose that were observed in surveys
43 conducted in 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2002, and prior to
44 1995 no, zero moose were observed during population
45 surveys conducted in '91, 1992 and 1994. Surveys
46 conducted in the area between the years of 2004 and
47 2007 have shown significant growth and the moose
48 population when the total observed animals for the four
49 survey years were 10, 22, 54, 46 and 81 moose for those
50 years between 2004 and 2007.

1 Initial population growth within the
2 affected area was due to moose moving into the proposal
3 area from the adjacent unit, 17A and subsequent growth
4 is thought to be due to high calf recruitment rates
5 among established cows. While no specific harvestable
6 surplus has been identified, it is likely that the
7 available surplus will be between five and 10 moose.

8
9 At its recent meeting, the Alaska Board
10 of Game moved to establish a moose season in the
11 Goodnews River drainage and south to the Unit 18
12 boundary. This is an August 25 through September 20
13 season and for one antlered bull harvest limit by
14 registration permit with a quota of up to 10 antlered
15 moose. The permits would be issued in Goodnews Bay. A
16 motion was adopted because there was an agreement to
17 the end of the moratorium after three years or when 100
18 moose were counted in the Goodnews River drainage.

19
20 So with that, Mr. Chair, I will now
21 pass the mic over to Larry Buklis, who will continue
22 with the next section of the analysis.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Larry.

27
28 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 I'll speak now to the Section .804 analysis and that's
30 found on Pages 65 to 70 in your book.

31
32 The customary and traditional use
33 finding for moose in Unit 18 includes all Unit 18
34 communities and upper Kalskag. This equates to roughly
35 20,000 people living in 43 communities. Because of the
36 small number of moose potentially available for harvest
37 and the number of people potentially eligible, an
38 ANILCA Section .804 analysis is necessary is necessary
39 in order to determine who, among the Federally-
40 qualified users could be eligible to hunt under these
41 regulations if a season was established.

42
43 Again, all Unit 18 residents and upper
44 Kalskag have a C&T determination to harvest moose in
45 Unit 18 remainder including the proposed hunt area.

46
47 Of these many communities only Goodnews
48 Bay and Platinum actually lie within the area that is
49 the focus of the proposal. Quinhagak lies about 10
50 miles north of the proposed hunt area. Section .804 of

1 ANILCA provides a subsistence priority for the taking
2 of fish and wildlife on Federally managed lands and
3 waters. Whenever it is necessary to restrict the
4 subsistence uses of populations of fish and wildlife on
5 these lands the priority will be implemented through
6 appropriate limitations based on application of three
7 criteria. And I think this came up earlier in our
8 meeting where we talked about the three criteria for
9 limiting within .804.

10

The three criteria are:

11

12

13

1. Customary and direct dependence
upon the populations as a
mainstay of livelihood.

14

15

16

17

2. Local residency, in other
words, how close the people
live to the resource.

18

19

20

21

3. And the availability to those
people of alternative
resources.

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So let me take a few moments to go
through the three criteria in this case.

So once again we're looking at this
proposed hunt area, there are two communities in the
area, one nearby, and then 40 additional communities
that do have C&T in this area, but they're not located
in the area of the hunt.

So of the three criteria, first is
customary and direct dependence on the populations as a
mainstay of livelihood. This is Page 67 of the book.
Published subsistence studies of the communities that
have C&T use of moose in Unit 18 remainder are few and
all but one of these studies focuses on communities to
the north and northeast of the hunt area. However,
based on the available information, although limited,
there is no evidence to suggest that residents of any
of these communities regularly travel south to the
proposed hunt area for moose, although anecdotal
information suggests that in recent years residents of
Unit 18 villages travel south for other resources such
as caribou. In contrast Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and
Platinum primarily focus their moose harvest efforts in
the proposed hunt area, which includes, and if you look
on Page 60, the overall area is shown divided into

1 what's called Uniform Coding Units, it's a way of
2 coding information to different parts of the geography,
3 and they're often called UCUs. So the hunt area
4 consists of UCU 1801 and a part of 1701. But there's a
5 large part of 1701 that's not in the hunt area.

6
7 Harvest ticket data from 1983 through
8 2004, so it's over 20 years, indicates that residents
9 of these three communities Goodnews Bay, Platinum and
10 Quinhagak focus their moose harvest efforts in these
11 two UCUs, within their communities are located.
12 Quinhagak is located in UCU 1701 as shown on the map
13 and is situated on the Kanektok River. UCU 1701 is the
14 primary area of moose harvest for Quinhagak residents.
15 ADF&G Division of Subsistence surveys indicate that 33
16 moose were harvested by Quinhagak residents in 1983,
17 but no locations for harvest were specified. So in one
18 year we have a Subsistence Division study on the ground
19 survey that indicates 33 moose were taken by Quinhagak
20 residents but specific locations of take weren't
21 recorded, weren't known. Fish and Game harvest ticket
22 data and we know there's fewer animals reported
23 harvested than are taken, harvest ticket data indicates
24 that of the 26 Quinhagak residents who reported
25 attempting to harvest moose in Unit 18 during that 21
26 year period, 22 attempted to harvest in UCU 1701 with
27 two reported harvest. So the main point here is what I
28 said earlier, Quinhagak residents focus their harvest
29 effort in 1701 though other UCUs are occasionally used.

30
31 Goodnews Bay is located in UCU 1801 at
32 the head of Goodnews Bay, mouth of the Goodnews River.
33 UCU 1801 is the primary area of moose harvest for
34 Goodnews Bay residents. We have no subsistence harvest
35 data for Goodnews Bay based on Subsistence Division
36 surveys. But if you go to the Fish and Game harvest
37 ticket data it indicates that Goodnews Bay residents
38 harvested -- attempted to harvest moose of -- 13 moose
39 in Unit 18 between 1983 and 2004 and 12 of those
40 attempts were in UCU 1801, three reported harvest. So,
41 again, Goodnews Bay residents focused on 1801.

42
43 Finally, Platinum, also located in UCU
44 1801, there are, again, no harvest surveys for moose in
45 Platinum from Subsistence Division. But the harvest
46 ticket data indicates no reported moose harvest during
47 that 21 year period. However, due to its proximity to
48 Goodnews Bay, it's likely that we could apply similar
49 expectation of Platinum as we have records for Goodnews
50 Bay.

1 So in conclusion this criteria of
2 dependence on the resource, the only other Unit 18
3 communities aside from Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and
4 Platinum that reported harvest efforts for moose in UCU
5 1801 were Bethel, two attempts one harvest, and Chevak,
6 one attempt one harvest.

7
8 Second criteria of local residency,
9 I've talked about the location of these communities.
10 With the exception of Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and
11 Platinum, none of the other Unit 18 communities or
12 upper Kalskag are in close proximity to nor do they
13 regularly access the moose population in the proposed
14 hunt area. Conversely all three communities, Goodnews
15 Bay, Platinum and Quinhagak access the moose population
16 encompassed by the proposed hunt area.

17
18 And finally the third criteria,
19 availability of alternative resources, Pages 69 and 70
20 now. All of the communities in Unit 18 are subsistence
21 communities, it should be noted that caribou has been
22 an important alternative resource although in recent
23 years, the availability of caribou has been declining.
24 unit 18 customary and traditional use recognizes all
25 residents of Unit 18 and upper Kalskag for moose in
26 Unit 18. And residents of the unit generally harvest
27 moose close to home if available, hunting in other
28 areas occurs generally when visiting relatives.

29
30 A significant portion of Unit 18 is
31 currently closed to hunting of moose by all users, thus
32 Unit 18 communities, especially those on the Kuskokwim
33 drainage portion of Unit 18 have few alternative
34 opportunities for hunting moose unless they travel
35 north to the Yukon.

36
37 With that said, limiting the proposed
38 hunt area to a subset of Unit 18 communities through
39 the .804 analysis would mean that remaining Unit 18
40 communities would still not be able to harvest moose in
41 the proposed hunt area.

42
43 So, again, the area's currently closed.
44 The question at issue is how much of the area, how many
45 communities would be eligible if it was reopened, and
46 the summary of the .804 analysis indicates that
47 residents of Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum
48 demonstrate the highest dependency on moose harvested
49 in the proposed hunt area if we consider that the
50 proposed hunt area is 1801 and a portion of UCU 1701.

1 pete, if you could pick up on the
2 effects of the proposal now.

3
4 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Larry. Mr.
5 Chair. As Mr. Buklis just mentioned, Section .804 of
6 ANILCA requires a priority be given to Federally-
7 qualified subsistence users when a resource is in short
8 supply and the harvest is expected to exceed the
9 animals available.

10
11 In circumstances where subsistence
12 demands exceed the harvestable surplus that is
13 available, as potentially the case with the proposed
14 hunt, Federal public lands would be closed to non-
15 Federally qualified users and hunting opportunity
16 limited to residents of communities determined to be
17 most dependent on that resource based on an .804
18 analysis. And as was mentioned the .804 analysis that
19 was concluded for this proposal indicates that the
20 eligibility should be restricted to residents of
21 communities of Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum.

22
23 With that said, adoption of the
24 proposal with such a modification would thus limit
25 hunting opportunity to those subsistence users that are
26 most dependent on moose population would retain the
27 existing closure of Federal public lands to harvest a
28 moose by all the other users. The proposed regulation
29 would split the existing area closed to moose hunting
30 into a portion which would remain closed, which is Unit
31 18, Kanektok and Arolik drainages and a portion which
32 would be subject to the proposed harvest regulations,
33 Unit 18 south of the Kanektok, Arolik River drainages
34 which includes the north and the south mouth of the
35 Arolik River -- including the north and south mouth of
36 the Arolik River and a description confuses more and
37 clarifies the regulatory language. Adoption of the
38 proposed regulations would also allow the Togiak Refuge
39 manager to determine and announce through special
40 action the season dates of a Federal moose season for
41 the affected area without having to request a special
42 action by the Federal Subsistence Board. The proposed
43 regulations would require the Refuge manager to make
44 the determination after consultation with the
45 Department of Fish and Game and local users.

46
47 Adoption of the proposal would create a
48 Federal open season requiring a Federal registration
49 permit providing the date, range and regulation within
50 which the Refuge manager may open a season would

1 provide constraint on the timing of such a season and
2 public awareness as to potential timing of the
3 opportunity. Also in consultation with the Regional
4 Advisory Council Chair is more appropriate regulatory
5 formulation and consultation with local users, as
6 mentioned before.

7

8 Adverse impacts to the affected moose
9 population and qualified users are not anticipated as a
10 result of an adoption of the proposed regulations with
11 modifications as described here, however, because
12 Federal lands would be closed to hunting opportunity to
13 all the Federally qualified users, non-subsistence
14 users would be excluded.

15

16 And with that, Mr. Chair, I'll turn the
17 mic back over to Mr. Larry -- or to Larry Buklis.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Just a couple final points and we'll conclude our
23 overview. Thanks for your patience. It's a complex
24 analysis and there were a lot of points to bring out.

25

26 Two other points I want to speak to,
27 first is on Page 72, the other alternative considered
28 section. An alternative considered that we did work
29 through was, an alternative to the .804 analysis, was
30 the idea of proceeding without an .804 analysis and
31 without restriction to those most dependent on the
32 resource and without maintaining the closure of Federal
33 public lands to other users. So this is something we
34 considered.

35

36 Such an approach would rest on the
37 presumption that even though the number of moose
38 available for harvest is likely a small number,
39 interest from Federally qualified users from the more
40 distant communities eligible, the ones who have C&T,
41 and from other users hunting under State regulations,
42 would not be sufficient to create a conservation risk.
43 So we'd have to presume that for us to proceed with
44 that kind of alternative. This alternative would also
45 presume that if more interest than anticipated did
46 materialize, a special action could be implemented in
47 sufficient time to close the hunt entirely or close it
48 to all but a narrowed number of communities through a
49 quickly done .804 analysis. This alternative was not
50 the preferred approach and not the one we will land on

1 here in a moment. As the reopening of hunting
2 opportunity on this small moose population is expected
3 to provide a limited small number of moose for harvest
4 and this thereby appears to be the sort of circumstance
5 for which ANILCA calls for prioritizing eligibility
6 through an .804 analysis and the related restriction to
7 those most dependent on the resource.

8

9 So in conclusion the OSM preliminary
10 conclusion is to support the proposal WP08-34 with
11 modifications to limit the eligibility to harvest moose
12 within the hunt area to residents of the communities
13 Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum. Retain the
14 existing closure of Federal public lands to other
15 users. Remove references -- sort of a housekeeping
16 here, remove reference to the mouths of the Arolik
17 River. And then as Mr. DeMatteo noted, to identify an
18 August 25 to September 20th period, or window during
19 which a season may be announced. And to include the
20 Regional Advisory Council Chair, instead of the term
21 local users, in the regulatory language that tries to
22 describe consultation.

23

24 The justification can be found on Page
25 73, and I think we've covered the points in the
26 justification in the course of explaining the analysis.
27 But if there's any questions on the justification or
28 the analysis in general, Mr. Chairman, Pete and I are
29 prepared to assist, and that concludes the overview.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: Under 72 where it states
34 that the Chair of this group will be consulted with
35 regulation formulation, instead of consulting the local
36 users, I think you should just -- even though that's
37 written like that, we should let those -- like the
38 traditional councils of those three villages, they
39 should know what's going on and I don't think they
40 should be completely taken out, they should have a part
41 in this.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.

44

45 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
46 This change in language is not meant to suggest that
47 managers won't be communicating with local people, but
48 if you look elsewhere in the regulatory booklet, the
49 Federal regulatory booklet, given the role of the
50 Councils and the role of the Council Chair, it's often

1 noted into the regulation booklet when managers are
2 directed to consult it will name specifically the
3 Regional Council Chair, position, not by name, not the
4 person's name, but their position, and State managers.
5 So it's a way of constructing the regulations to
6 emphasize the role of the Council and the role of State
7 management. But in the normal course of business, the
8 Refuge would be consulting with local people.

9
10 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I realize that.
11 But Mr. Chairman, I'd like to include those villages in
12 that decision-making process.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done with your
15 analysis.

16
17 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, we are done
18 and standing by for questions.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further discussion
21 or questions for Mr. Buklis or Mr. DeMatteo, Council.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

26
27 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, just a minute,
30 we have a question from Greg.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Just clarification,
33 yeah, this is a struggle around this one, I still don't
34 know if I got my head around it all the way. When they
35 said south of the Kanektok and the Arolik River
36 drainages and in light of Board of Game's recent action
37 in response to an agenda change request that they got,
38 they did approve -- well, to make it more simple -- why
39 didn't they just choose to say the Goodnews River
40 drainage instead of south of the Arolik and south of
41 the Kanektok.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.

44
45 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'll begin
46 with a response to that. But as you move through your
47 checklist on considering this proposal you'll get to
48 State agency comments, and I think the Refuge Staff are
49 prepared to speak to several of the issues raised by
50 this proposal but I'll speak to the question for now

1 and they may be able to add more when they come up.

2

3 If you look on Page 60 in the Council
4 book, the area that's got the striping, what we call
5 the cross-hatched lines, is meant to show the intended
6 hunt area as proposed, and my understanding of what the
7 Board of Game did very recently, even, you know, after
8 this book was printed, so it's very recent, is on the
9 State side they adopted a regulation which encompasses
10 the Goodnews River drainage and I believe that's UCU
11 1801, so I think the actual hunt area on the State side
12 is more like that cross-hatched area up to that dark
13 grey line that separates 1701 and 1801, so it's the
14 Goodnews River drainage.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I get it now on
17 the UCU.

18

19 MR. BUKLIS: The proposal that came in
20 grabbed a little bit of 1701 and so that's why this
21 recent development does raise a good question and I
22 think the Refuge might want to speak to how they might
23 view the proposal now. But the cross-hatching shows
24 what had been proposed.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you for
27 the introduction of the proposal. We'll go down to the
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew, Kwethluk.

35

36 REPORTER: John.

37

38 MR. HAYNES: The Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game comments were.....

40

41 MR. BUKLIS: Terry. Terry.

42

43 MR. HAYNES:not included in your
44 meeting book but I understand that they have been
45 handed out to you.

46

47 REPORTER: Wait a second.

48

49 MR. BUKLIS: Terry.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Terry, could you hold
2 on for a minute, please.

3
4 MR. BUKLIS: Stand by please.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a question
7 from the Council to Larry.

8
9 REPORTER: Lester.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry. There's a
12 question from Mr. Andrew.

13
14 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
15 My name is John Andrew from Kwethluk.

16
17 There are several factors you need to
18 consider.

19
20 One, the villages in the lower
21 Kuskokwim area are trying to honor that five year
22 moratorium it started back in '03, '03, and it's
23 supposed to end by end of this year. And for years
24 we've been considered -- the villages of Quinhagak and
25 Goodnews and Platinum as part of Unit 18.

26
27 Two, the proposal came in Togiak
28 Refuge, from the other side of our world. If it came
29 from our own YK-Delta Refuge, we should consider it
30 seriously.

31
32 And if we go through this one it's
33 going against our five year moratorium plan. My own
34 recommendation would be to defer it until next year or
35 take no action.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I know you want an
40 answer or make a comment to that effect, do you not.

41
42 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. If you want
43 me to respond I will, but if you want.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we're going to
46 go on down anyway.

47
48 MR. BUKLIS: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So then we.....

1 MR. BUKLIS: I will respond to that if
2 you want me to or if you want that to stand as an open
3 question, it's at your call.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Why don't you go ahead
6 and respond to it.

7
8 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. All I would
9 say is on Page 66 in the Council book it shows the
10 broader area, and you're right there is the moose
11 moratorium on the Kuskokwim, and the area we're talking
12 about here is a separate area. I know they are side by
13 side and you know this too, but I just want to point
14 out for the record, the moose moratorium area on the
15 Kuskokwim is to the north of this area we are talking
16 about and the area we are talking about isn't part of
17 that five year moratorium. This place to the south is
18 just coming off of its three year period of a
19 moratorium and the moose numbers are up over the
20 minimum target level so that's why it's on the table.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

23
24 MR. ANDREW: (Nods affirmatively)

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

27
28 MR. ANDREW: Okay.

29
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, let's continue
33 on.

34
35 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

38
39 MR. NICK: My recommendation would be
40 maybe hear from Refuge Staff before you go on to the
41 next agencies.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hear from where?

44
45 MR. NICK: Refuge Staff. Togiak Refuge
46 want to speak to this proposal.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: They'll have their
49 chance but I'm going to go on down the regular
50 procedure. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

1 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Terry Haynes in Fairbanks again. As I mentioned a bit
3 ago, our comments did not make it into your meeting
4 books but I believe copies have been provided to you.

5
6 And the main point we want to make in
7 our comments is that the Board of Game did implement a
8 season as Mr. DeMatteo pointed out, this is a response
9 to the moose population returning to the area growing
10 up to a number that allows some limited harvest to
11 occur and it's all a result of the, especially close
12 working relationship that has developed and has been
13 established between residents of Goodnews Bay with the
14 Togiak Refuge and with the Department of Fish and Game.
15 The people in Goodnews Bay have worked very hard to
16 ensure that this moratorium has been honored in the
17 community and they expressed an interest in having the
18 opportunity to begin hunting again as soon as there
19 were enough moose in the area to support a harvest.

20
21 So we believe the new State season
22 should be given an opportunity to work. If you look at
23 the land status, particularly in the Goodnews Bay,
24 Platinum area, there's a lot of non-Federal land close
25 to the communities and under this new State hunt that
26 has been established, residents of Goodnews Bay,
27 Platinum, whoever else might obtain a permit, that will
28 only be issued in Goodnews Bay, would be able to hunt
29 on both State and Federal lands. That is to say they
30 can hunt on State lands and if they're Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users can hunt on the Federal
32 lands.

33
34 Hunting will be limited because there
35 is still a need to let the moose population continue to
36 grow, but the Department is willing to allocate up to
37 10 antlered bull moose to the hunt that has been
38 proposed, as we say, for August 25 to September 20th.

39
40 If this Federal proposal is adopted,
41 whether it's the original proposal or the
42 recommendation put forth by the Office of Subsistence
43 Management, there will have to be careful coordination
44 between the Togiak Refuge and the Department because
45 the provisions for this hunt would be somewhat
46 different. And so we would be -- we're confident that
47 if this proposal is not adopted, that the State
48 regulation is going to provide local residents with the
49 opportunity to participate in this hunt.

50

1 If a Federal season is also adopted,
2 then it's going to be a bit more complicated but
3 Department Staff in Bethel will work closely with the
4 Togiak Refuge to ensure that we have a closely
5 coordinated hunt and that harvest is limited to no more
6 than 10 antlered bulls.

7
8 And if the Council has any questions
9 I'll do my best to answer them.

10
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
12 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council.

13
14 Wildlife Proposal WP08-34:

15
16 Reopen a portion of Unit 18 south of
17 and including the Kanektok River drainage to moose
18 hunting by federal registration permit beginning in
19 fall 2009.

20
21 Introduction:

22
23 For the past 10 years, moose
24 populations have expanded into the southwestern part of
25 Unit 18, and moose hunting has been restricted by
26 agreement and design to allow colonization and
27 population growth. As described in the proposal, the
28 Togiak Refuge, Department of Fish and Game, village
29 councils of Goodnews Bay and Platinum, and Goodnews
30 River Drainage Moose Advisory Committee collaborated on
31 instituting a moose moratorium in 2005. These
32 organizations agreed to support a reopening of the
33 hunting season after 100 or more moose are counted
34 during winter surveys in the area.

35
36 Impact on Subsistence Users:

37
38 The hunting moratorium has corresponded
39 with a steady growth of the moose population in the
40 Goodnews Bay area for the past five years. Support for
41 the moratorium by residents of Goodnews Bay has been
42 essential to its success.

43
44 Opportunity Provided by State:

45
46 The Board of Game closed the state
47 season in this area at its November 2005 meeting,
48 stipulating that the season remain closed for 3 years
49 or until 100 moose are counted in the area. The City
50 of Goodnews Bay submitted a petition for emergency

1 action to the Board of Game in September 2007, which
2 requested that a 7-10 day hunting season be opened in
3 the area of Unit 18 near the community. The Board of
4 Game did not open the season because it would have been
5 inconsistent with the agreement made at an October 2005
6 meeting involving Goodnews Bay residents, the
7 Department of Fish and Game, and Fish and Wildlife
8 Service to not reopen the season in this area until 100
9 or more moose are counted in winter surveys.
10 Department surveys conducted in 2006 and 2007 counted
11 approximately 55-60 moose in the Goodnews River
12 drainage. The Fish and Wildlife Service counted 81
13 moose in a December 2007 survey.

14
15 Weather permitting, the Department of
16 Fish and Game will conduct another survey later this
17 winter. If 100 moose are counted in this survey, the
18 Department would support submission of an agenda change
19 request to the Board of Game, asking that a limited
20 hunting season be reopened in the area in fall 2008. A
21 state season will better accommodate federally-
22 qualified subsistence users than a federal season,
23 because a state season allows residents to hunt on both
24 state and federal lands whereas a federal season only
25 authorizes hunting on federal land. If a state season
26 is opened, the Department would plan to issue
27 registration permits only in Goodnews Bay and Platinum.

28
29 Conservation Issues:

30
31 When the season is reopened in this
32 area, a harvest allocation must be instituted to reduce
33 the potential for overharvest that would limit herd
34 growth in order to assure improved moose hunting
35 opportunity in future years. Based on current herd
36 composition data, a harvest allocation of no more than
37 5-10 moose is anticipated if a season is opened in
38 2008.

39
40 Enforcement Issues:

41
42 Establishing only a federal season
43 could increase the potential for enforcement issues due
44 to the mixed land ownership patterns in the area. If
45 only a federal season is established, hunters would
46 have to travel about 10 miles to access the federal
47 public lands nearest to Goodnews Bay village, and
48 hunters would have to ensure they did not hunt on state
49 or private lands.

50

1 Other Comments:

2

3 Potential confusion in the proposed
4 regulation has been addressed in the staff analysis by
5 indicating that it involves the area south of the
6 Kanektok and Arolik river drainages. This area more
7 closely corresponds to the area that is currently
8 closed in state regulation.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
13 questions. Greg.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Terry, do
16 you -- or by chance know how come the Board and the
17 special action, or ACR or whatever it was that they
18 acted on here at the last meeting, from Goodnews Bay,
19 how come it excluded that little section with the Jack
20 Smith Creek, Cripple Creek, Indian River, Center Creek,
21 why that was excluded, or do you have any idea?

22

23 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chair. No, I
24 don't. I wasn't present during those deliberations,
25 and I think the request that came in from Goodnews Bay,
26 I think kind of expressed an interest in having a hunt
27 in the Goodnews River drainage, and if there was some
28 question about exactly what that meant, I guess the way
29 the Board of Game chose to define the hunt area was
30 their best effort to have definable boundaries. But
31 beyond that I can't tell you exactly what discussions
32 occurred on that topic.

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay, thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions for
37 Terry.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no
42 Council questions, thank, you, Terry.

43

44 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Federal, State and
47 tribal agencies.

48

49 MR. LIEDBERG: Mr. Chairman. Members
50 of the Council. Thank you. My name is Paul Liedberg.

1 I'm the manager for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
2 and will speak to this proposal 08-34.

3

4 I wanted to bring up a couple of things
5 first before I got into a little more detail and one
6 thing that was stated earlier was that this was
7 recovering moose population and that isn't the case, it
8 really is a new moose population down there, we haven't
9 had them historically so it's not a case where this
10 population has been reduced from overhunting or
11 predators or anything else, it's a new one that's
12 expanding and expanded rapidly and Andy, sitting beside
13 me, can expand on that more if he wants to.

14

15 We've got an extremely close working
16 relationship with the villages down there, Goodnews Bay
17 and Platinum in working towards this proposal and for
18 the last five to eight years really getting to this
19 level and I recognize and appreciate the comments of
20 Council member Gregory in advising us to work with them
21 and that's what we have been doing and that's what we
22 intend to do for the future as well.

23

24 Let me address first, Mr. Roczicka's
25 question and maybe we can put that to rest, and that is
26 the question of why the boundary was drawn up there
27 south of Arolik and if I was to submit that today we
28 would have redrawn that and we're recommending that the
29 boundary be redrawn so that it coincides with the Board
30 of Game regulation that was recently passed to include
31 only the Goodnews River drainage, and I'll speak to
32 that just a little bit more.

33

34 For the most part we agree with the
35 proposal before you. We submitted it, but there's a
36 few things that we have questions about and I guess
37 would recommend some modifications on.

38

39 As you've already heard, this is nearly
40 the end of a very long successful process to establish
41 not only a new season for the villages down there but
42 to establish a growing population of moose, which they
43 have been looking forward to for a long time.

44

45 There's several concerns that I have
46 with the proposal and mainly in terms of aligning it as
47 much as possible with action that the Board of Game
48 took. In addition to the cooperative working
49 relationship we've had with the villages we've enjoyed
50 an extremely close relationship with the Department of

1 Fish and Game out of Bethel as well, and we've been
2 hand in hand on this thing through the whole process.

3

4 So the first thing I would address
5 would be that modification that I just talked about
6 with realigning the boundaries there and I guess I
7 would suggest a modification to this proposal be
8 considered that would align it with what the Board of
9 Game passed and limit it to the Goodnews River drainage
10 and south to the Unit boundary. Our attempt certainly
11 is to simplify things and make them as uniform as
12 possible where we can and where it meets our mandates.
13 And the effect of reducing that area would be minimal.
14 The area in question between the Arolik River and the
15 Goodnews River is very limited moose habitat anyway. I
16 visited with somebody from Quinhagak who formerly sat
17 on this Council and said he knew of one moose that had
18 been caught down in that area in the last 27 years so
19 Mr. Buklis talked about the use of Quinhagak in this
20 hunt area that we're talking about, but I'm not sure
21 the information was there to put it in perspective of
22 how little use there is of that area, by members from
23 Quinhagak. So if we did change that boundary and just
24 include the Goodnews River drainage and south, it would
25 have absolute minimal effect on the hunting
26 opportunities.

27

28 Second thing I want to bring up, we did
29 not propose in our original proposal that a Federal
30 registration permit be required. Our vision is that
31 this moose hunt in the drainage would be conducted very
32 similar to a similar hunt that we have in 17A, which is
33 the Togiak River Valley, that's been going on for about
34 10 years. In that area there was no .804 analysis that
35 was done to restrict users. In that area Fish and Game
36 issues permits, similar to what Terry talked about,
37 that would be done here. Fish and Game issues permits,
38 say, in Togiak, it effectively makes it a local hunt.
39 They placed, in that case, an airplane restriction,
40 aircraft restriction on it and it's worked well to make
41 it a hunt that's very much limited to local users, it
42 simplified the permitting for the hunters, there's only
43 one permit and one report that they need, rather than
44 two, rather than a State permit and a Federal permit,
45 and we believe that the same process would work well on
46 the Goodnews River drainage hunt.

47

48 And, lastly, as has been brought up,
49 the Staff analysis recommended that I consult with the
50 Chair in establishing the season or dealing with regs

1 down there and as interested as I am in consulting with
2 you, Mr. Chairman, in maybe July or August, we have,
3 like I said, an excellent relationship with the
4 villages down there and the traditional councils, and
5 our original recommendation was that we consult with
6 the local users, and I guess I would propose that that
7 still be the language in the regulation with updates
8 for this Council as well at very one of the meetings.
9 And that would still be a recommendation that I would
10 make on modifying this proposal.

11
12 So in summary the three things that we
13 would recommend would be:

14
15 Changing that hunt area, aligning it
16 with the State.

17
18 Ask you to consider not restricting who
19 can hunt in that area through the .804
20 process, which would simplify the
21 permitting then for the hunters.

22
23 And asking that you consider
24 streamlining the consultation that I
25 just talked about.

26
27 And with that I'll turn it over to
28 Andy, if you have anything that you want to address for
29 the Council, or take questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Andy, shook his head,
32 I assume you don't have anything to add.

33
34 MR. ADERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman. Andy
35 Aderman with Togiak Refuge. I'm here to help answer
36 questions if you have them.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
39 questions from the Council. Greg.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Two of
42 them, short and sweet, I hope.

43
44 Would you concur then with the
45 Department's recommendation and when they have their
46 update of the Board's action that says, in view of what
47 the Board -- and it's Board of Game action, a Federal
48 season is not necessary because State regulations will
49 authorize hunting on all lands, State, private and
50 Federal.

1 MR. LIEDBERG: I think the season that
2 they have established will provide the opportunity for
3 hunters in that area to harvest the moose that we've
4 agreed that they need down there and that they can take
5 from that population. I guess I would leave it up to
6 OSM to make the call on whether a Federal season needs
7 to match the State season or not. But with the State
8 passed there, it will allow, I think, the harvest to be
9 -- to take place, we've agreed to and that the village
10 needs.

11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, one question leads
13 to another. I was going to say, if you had considered
14 since -- it sounded like they pretty much achieved what
15 you were asking for and I was wondered if as the
16 sponsor of the proposal, you might consider withdrawing
17 it, in which case the Board wouldn't have to take any
18 action, but as you move along on that, the difference
19 I'm seeing here now is that under the State, the
20 registration permits would only be available in
21 Goodnews Bay rather than under the Federal, I presume
22 they could be passed out in either Quinhagak and in
23 Platinum as well -- well, it wouldn't make any --
24 they'd still have to come over there to hunt anyways to
25 pick up a permit, so I guess I don't.....

26
27 MR. LIEDBERG: If there was a Federal
28 hunt and a Federal permit required, we would certainly
29 make the permits available in whatever method we needed
30 to so that the hunters were able to get them for sure.

31
32 I guess I would bring up that with the
33 recommendation that I made, that the hunt area be
34 aligned with the State, that could affect the
35 participation or the history of the participation by
36 the village of Quinhagak in that area. And I am not
37 aware that the village of Quinhagak has traveled down
38 there to any degree to hunt in the past, very little,
39 if at all.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: But you hadn't
42 considered as yet of just withdrawing your proposal
43 because you're essentially asking us to take no action.

44
45 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Greg.
46 The proposal does two things, or asks for two things.

47
48 One is to establish a moose season.

49
50 The second part, which may not be so

1 obvious asks to lift the current restriction on Federal
2 lands from other users.

3

4 So if we were to withdraw it then all
5 the Federal lands in the Goodnews drainage would remain
6 closed.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: Oh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

11

12 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

15

16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Paul, where did you say the boundary was for Togiak

18 National Wildlife Refuge and YK-Delta Refuge.

19

20 MR. LIEDBERG: Mr. Chairman. Mr.

21 Charles. The boundary is, if you look on Page 62, and

22 if you look at the Kanektok River there's a small dark

23 line just north of the Kanektok River and that's the

24 boundary between the Togiak Refuge and the Yukon-Delta

25 Refuge.

26

27 MR. CHARLES: Thank you. I see that.

28 But I am lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory

29 Chairman so I get calls from Eek, Quinhagak and some

30 people from Tuntutuliak. Those people are just like

31 me, they're really confused about that area. There is

32 YK-Delta Refuge, Togiak National Refuge and Game

33 Management Unit 18, they're all in that area so the

34 people are like me, they don't know what's where, the

35 boundary, and so I tell them call Fish and Wildlife

36 Service maybe they'll tell you better than me, or Fish

37 and Game. So I have not answered them clear, I just

38 give them people to call, or Togiak National Refuge

39 people in Dillingham, that's who I tell the people to

40 call because I, myself, am confused about that. So if

41 it was -- if it showed better than what it is now maybe

42 that would help and let the people know where the

43 boundaries are.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, you're not going
2 to sneak up when I turn my head, and raise your hand.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
9 thank -- I can't remember your name, Paul Liedberg, for
10 working with the people, because he was in Bethel for a
11 long time and whenever somebody's been in Bethel for a
12 long time they learn to work with the people and I'm
13 glad you're doing that.

14
15 MR. LIEDBERG: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
22 thank you. Tribal agencies, AVCP.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute on that
27 same area, tribal agency, you're part of the tribal
28 agency?

29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Government.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Government. Go ahead,
33 BLM.

34
35 MR. BYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
36 the Council. Again, for the record, Geoff Byersdorf
37 with the Bureau of Land Management out of the Anchorage
38 Field Office.

39
40 And I guess one of the things I'd like
41 to start off with and acknowledge is Ms. Gregory's
42 comments there in regards to the amount of work that's
43 been put forth between the State, Federal agencies and
44 the local village council there. And the BLM, we do
45 have some lands down there, we're a minor player but
46 what we'd like to see is very similar to what Paul has
47 proposed as far as aligning the boundaries with the
48 recent Board of Game actions for the Goodnews River
49 drainage and also maintaining just staying with the
50 State permit down in that area. We agree with what

1 Paul and his Staff have put together in regards to
2 trying to simplify the regulations and having a one
3 bull by registration permit harvest quota for that
4 area.

5
6 So I guess my main point here is simply
7 echoing what Paul has said and that the BLM is in
8 support of that action.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
11 questions for Geoff.

12
13 MS. GREGORY: I noticed that you're
14 lands are really, really small, are these your BLM
15 lands right here?

16
17 MR. BYERSDORF: I don't think that the
18 BLM lands are actually listed -- oh, actually they are,
19 if you look on Page 62, the really light grey area
20 that's just to the east of Goodnews Bay and then just
21 south of Jack Smith Creek, those are the BLM lands.
22 But in regards to this proposal, because it would be
23 the Goodnews River drainage, it would be those lands
24 that are just to the east of Goodnews, and then leading
25 up into the Refuge lands there.

26
27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Jack Smith
28 and then what's that other little creek there, Cripple
29 Creek and Indian, they're in that BLM land, right.

30
31 MR. BYERSDORF: That's correct.

32
33 MS. GREGORY: I'm sorry, but when
34 they're in BLM land you're objecting to it or is it
35 okay for you.

36
37 MR. BYERSDORF: Through the Chair.
38 Member Gregory. What I'm stating here is that the BLM
39 is in support of what Fish and Wildlife Service is
40 doing here, and the modifications that Paul brought
41 forth in regards to aligning with the Board of Game
42 decision that was recently passed down and simplifying
43 the permit process and streamlining the consultation
44 process. BLM supports that, we'd like to see that
45 happen.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions,
48 Mary.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: I understand that other

1 gentleman was saying that this proposal is two-fold, to
2 open the season and also to open it for non -- is what
3 you said non-residents.

4
5 MR. ADERMAN: It would open it to all
6 State residents.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Andy. Any
11 further questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
16 thank you. InterAgency doesn't have any comments.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Larry.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry doesn't have any
21 comments.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, he told me that
26 he didn't have any comments, is that correct, or is
27 this an exception.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 I was correct about the Staff Committee but if you're
33 still on Federal agency comments, I'd like to return
34 for OSM and just make one comment of correction.

35
36 We talked about the OSM analysis and
37 the OSM preliminary conclusion but -- and I referred
38 you to the Council book but it was pointed out to me
39 that the Council book on Page 72, we show how the
40 regulations would read under the OSM conclusion, and
41 there's a -- just for the record I want to point out,
42 that our recommendation is to limit the eligibility, in
43 other words to lift the closure, only for Quinhagak,
44 Goodnews Bay and Platinum, but the regulatory language
45 we printed down there on 72 doesn't say that.

46
47 So just for the record the way the
48 regulatory language should read under the OSM
49 conclusion is:

50

1 Unit 18 south of the Kanektok and
2 Arolik River drainages, Federal -- this
3 is the new part that we missed --
4 Federal public lands are closed to the
5 taking of moose except by residents of
6 Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum
7 hunting under these regulations.
8
9 Then it would say dash
10
11 One bull by Federal -- and the rest
12 goes on.
13
14 So everything we said indicated that
15 but we didn't include that phrase in the regulatory
16 language. So I wanted that to be in the record.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Barring no
21 more surprises, we'll go down to Fish and Game Local
22 Advisory -- Greg.
23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: Maybe I ought to wait
25 for discussion but it actually just becomes more and
26 more confusing here because we're having these dual
27 permits in place, you know, if we pass one or the
28 other.
29
30 MR. ANDREW: It can be taken care of.
31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That can be taken care
35 of.
36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay, I'll wait.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: (Nods affirmatively)
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Local
44 Advisory Committee comments. James.
45
46 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of public
49 written comments. Alex.
50

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. In your book on
2 Page 76 there's a letter from the village of Quinhagak
3 and I think their main point -- you can capture their
4 main point at the last paragraph of their letter in
5 support of this proposal.

6
7 Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there any comments
10 from the other Councils.

11
12 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. To my knowledge,
13 this is the only comment that we received.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public
16 testimony.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none we'll
21 go down to Regional Advisory Council deliberations,
22 recommendations and justification.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any -- you guys are
27 falling asleep or taking a break, any comments from the
28 Council.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: I will talk on this
31 proposal. I will support this and I'd like to know a
32 little bit more about how long is the opening.

33
34 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. We
36 propose to do what the Board of Game suggested and that
37 is have a season between August 25 and September 20th.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: And is it a one time
40 opening, and does it occur next year?

41
42 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mary.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: I guess I'll try to get

1 -- if we support this proposal and the Board of Game --
2 or the Federal Subsistence Board passes it, in order to
3 be able for village residents down there to be able to
4 hunt on their own property they'd need a State permit
5 in order -- so essentially they're going to have to get
6 two permits regardless, so both a State and a Federal
7 permit; is there a way around that.

8

9 MR. ADERMAN: Again, what the proposal
10 does is:

11

12 One, ask for a moose season. If you
13 look at Page 58, under the proposed regulation, in that
14 second block there, you'll see the language that's
15 stricken out, that would remove the language about
16 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose
17 by all users. So if you support that, then the Federal
18 lands in the Goodnews drainage would be open for all
19 State residents with a State permit.

20

21 If you don't support that, and you want
22 to keep that closed, then, yes, they would have to get
23 a State permit to hunt on non-Federal lands, they'd
24 have to get a Federal permit to hunt on Federal lands.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: There's a further
27 modification that's built in, though, that the Board of
28 Game did not include that extra section up there that's
29 included in this proposal, they only did the Goodnews
30 River drainage.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The suggestion, Greg,
33 was that the -- the suggested modification was that we
34 align the boundary with the boundary of the Board of
35 Game, and the permitting system be left to one agency;
36 is that what was the recommendation?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, we'd prefer to see
39 this hunt administered with the State registration
40 permit, that the entire area within the Goodnews River
41 drainage, again, based on our modification of our own
42 proposal, that the Goodnews River -- all lands within
43 the Goodnews River drainage would be open for this hunt
44 and it would be done with the State registration
45 permit.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that understood
48 now. Greg.

49

50 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, and that's where I

1 was trying to get to, is to make sure that we weren't
2 making it more complicated.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. If I might
5 suggest to the maker, when the time comes for the
6 motion to come around, is to make sure if you're
7 supporting the amended or the.....

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Modified.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE:modified version
12 that you state that the modified, in your motion,
13 whoever makes the motion, okay, if that's what you
14 want.

15

16 Any further discussion on this from the
17 Regional Council.

18

19 Greg, you got your microphone on,
20 you.....

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
25 or discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Andy.

30

31 What is the wish of the Council.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

36

37 MS. GREGORY: I move to adopt Proposal
38 No. 34 with the modifications.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been made
41 by Mary to adopt Proposal -- or support Proposal WP08-
42 34 as modified. Do I hear a second.

43

44 Do I hear a second to the motion.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion, Mr.
47 Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
50 Charles. Any further discussion.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Just to clarify
2 modification then, is it -- the recommendation is that
3 we are striking the section that says:

4
5 Federal public lands are closed to the
6 taking of moose by all users south of
7 the Kanektok River drainage and that
8 this hunt will take place to be
9 announced between August 25-September
10 20 and supplied via the State
11 registration permit available only in
12 Goodnews Bay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And align the boundary
15 also with the Board of Game.

16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: In conformance with
18 that, yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Is there a call
21 for -- go ahead.

22
23 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Larry Buklis, OSM. Just so there's no confusion for the
25 record, people keep referring to Page 58, and there is,
26 as Mr. Aderman pointed out, the actual proposal is near
27 the top of the page and it's called proposed
28 regulation. Mr. Roczicka then tried to clarification
29 the modifications he thought were on the table, and I
30 think he went to the OSM preliminary conclusion and
31 started talking about strike the place where it says
32 Federal public lands are closed. If you go up above
33 to the actual proposal those words are stricken. So I
34 think we need to be clear together as to what's your
35 starting your point and what are you doing to modify
36 it.

37
38 So if you're starting with the proposed
39 regulation, you don't need to strike that Federal lands
40 are closed, it's shown as stricken.

41
42 If you're going to the OSM conclusion
43 at the bottom of the page, then you need to look at it
44 differently.

45
46 So I think you need to make clear for
47 the record, what your basis is and then what these
48 modifications are on it because it wasn't clear to me
49 what you were modifying.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Hopefully I was
2 intending to make it more clear and not complicate it
3 further that the intent here is whatever Federal lands
4 have been closed and were closed will now be open
5 within the Goodnews River drainage and that the hunt
6 that occurs will conform to the -- will be in the
7 Goodnews River drainage only and the hunt will be
8 conducted through the State registration permit in
9 Goodnews Bay. However that fits and where it goes, I
10 think the intent is very clear.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Clear as mud.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you clear of that
19 now, whoever is going to -- let's have some order here.
20 Any further questions as far as clarification and
21 justification. Ma'am.

22
23 MS. PETRIVELLI: Since I'm writing the
24 paper, I'm just going to write for modifications, so on
25 Page 58 it will say:

26
27 Unit 18, Goodnews River drainage.

28
29 MR. BUKLIS: South.....

30
31 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, it wouldn't be
32 south, it's just the Goodnews River drainage, period,
33 that Federal public lands, that they're not closed,
34 right, they would be open. You said only the Goodnews
35 River drainage, right.

36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Madame Recording
40 Secretary, could you read the motion to us as stated.

41
42 REPORTER: We have to take a break and
43 I can play it back exactly.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What?

46
47 REPORTER: Do you want to take a break
48 and I'll play it back, exactly what he said.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Okay, can we

1 take a five minute break so we can make sure that we
2 get the motion clarified.

3

4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, she has it on tape.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Break.

9

10 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Buklis.

17

18 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Our intention before the break was to help clarify and
20 dispel any confusion here at the meeting or in the
21 record and we hope we haven't contributed to the
22 confusion by doing that. The break helped us. I would
23 like to read what we understand in principle you wanted
24 to accomplish. We're not trying to lead the Council,
25 and if we've got something that isn't what you wanted,
26 you need to make that clear to us.

27

28 But if we look at Page 58, and if we
29 look in the box that's called proposed regulation, and
30 take that as the starting point. The first part of
31 that talks about the Kanektok and Arolik River
32 drainages being closed, and that's not relevant to the
33 issue at hand, so that's not changed by what we're
34 speaking about.

35

36 The second part talks about the area of
37 concern. And we understand it that you want it to read
38 this way now:

39

40 Unit 18. Goodnews River drainage and
41 south, one bull by State registration
42 permit.

43

44 So in principle what that does is it
45 lifts the closure in the Goodnews River drainage and
46 the small areas south of there that's still in Unit 18
47 and it requires a State registration permit for the
48 taking of a bull moose.

49

50 The other feature is the season dates.

1 The proposal, I know we've talked a lot about differing
2 variations, the proposal says:

3

4 Season dates to be determined after
5 consultation with local users and
6 Alaska Fish and Game.

7

8 We think we heard you say you wanted to
9 align with the State season and so we think you would
10 want that to say:

11

12 Season dates of August 24 to September
13 20th.

14

15 Now, if we don't have any of that right
16 we will try to be clearer. So that's what we
17 understand the motion with modification is.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis, and part
20 of that was to align the boundary with the Board of
21 Game line; is that also in there, is that put in a
22 different language.

23

24 MR. BUKLIS: We captured that, Mr.
25 Chairman, by saying:

26

27 Unit 18. Goodnews River drainage and
28 south.

29

30 That captures what the Board of Game
31 boundaries are.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Everybody is in
34 agreement.

35

36 (Council nods affirmatively)

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

39

40 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary, one more before
43 we go to the question.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: I just have one more
46 question. When you say open to the whole state of
47 Alaska, does that include trophy hunters?

48

49 MR. BYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Member
50 Gregory. And I'll call on Andy or Paul to back me up

1 if I get this wrong. But my understanding is that the
2 Refuge has been working with the State and with the
3 Goodnews Village Council and what they would do is they
4 would issue the State registration permit in Goodnews,
5 so they're targeting the local users there.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been
10 called on the motion. A roll call vote, please.

11

12 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. James
13 Charles.

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

16

17 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

20

21 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

28

29 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, yes. Edgar
30 Hoelscher.

31

32 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.

33

34 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

37

38 MR. ONEY: Motion passes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries. We
41 are now down to crossover proposals. The first
42 crossover proposal is Proposal WP08-35, moose, open
43 Unit 19A, north of Kuskokwim River, Pete, the
44 introduction, please, or Mr. Buklis.

45

46 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Proposal WP08-35 was submitted by Harry Jackson of
48 Kwethluk.

49

50 The proposal requests the establishment

1 of a moose season for a portion of Unit 18. The
2 proposal area is the portion north of the Kuskokwim
3 River up stream but excluding the George River drainage
4 and south of the Kuskokwim River up stream from but
5 including the Downing Creek drainage, not including the
6 Lime Village Management area, and not including the
7 Holitna River up stream, including the Titnahk Creek
8 and the Holitna River up stream from Little Dimond
9 River.

10

11 Mr. Chair, if you turn to the map on
12 Page 79 of your books, and I think nit would be much
13 easier to see the proposal area, it's that area that
14 you see in the eastern portion of 19A that shows the
15 diagonal lines, the hatch-mark lines there. That is
16 the proposal area that this proposal mentions.

17

18 The proponent wants the proposed season
19 to be determined with a harvest limit of one bull with
20 a spike-form or 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or
21 more brow tines on one side.

22

23 The proposed regulation can be found in
24 your books on Page 78 half way down the page under
25 proposed Federal regulations.

26

27 Residents of Unit 18 within the
28 Kuskokwim River drainage up stream rom and including
29 the Johnson River. Unit 19 have a positive customary
30 and traditional use determination for moose in Units
31 19A.

32

33 The affected area of Unit 19A was
34 closed by the Alaska Board of Game in March 2006 and by
35 the Federal Board in May of 2007 in response to
36 continued decline of the moose population that
37 warranted the total closure to hunt or harvest. The
38 moose season for this area were closed by Federal and
39 State Boards by request of residents of Sleetmute,
40 Stony River and Red Devil. Prior to this the Federal
41 Board made a number of changes to the Unit 19A moose
42 regulations between 1995 and 2002. These changes
43 include eliminating three winter seasons and making
44 harvest limits more restrictive in Units 19A and also
45 19B. Adjacent to the affected portion of 19A is the
46 Unit 18 portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage where a
47 five year moratorium on moose hunting is currently in
48 place. Also the Alaska Board of Game established a
49 Tier II subsistence only hunt in the remaining portion
50 of the Western Unit 19A or the area just west of the

1 proposal area, and also limited the RM-640 registration
2 hunts for Units 19A and 19B. That's the State side.

3
4 On the Federal side, a total of 100
5 Federal drawing permits were available for six villages
6 in compliance with the ANILCA .804 criteria that we
7 mentioned in the previous analysis. Because of the
8 Section .804 determination recipients of the State Tier
9 II permit for the communities of Tuluksak, lower
10 Kalskag, upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Crooked
11 Creek would be permitted to harvest moose on Federal
12 public lands in the western portion of 19A, however
13 residents from the remaining communities included in
14 the positive customary and traditional use
15 determination for moose in Unit 19A would not be
16 permitted to harvest moose on Federal public lands in
17 Unit 19A with or without a State Tier II permit.

18
19 Mr. Chair, a very limited harvest of
20 bull moose, a total of 20 bull moose on Federal lands
21 and 40 on State lands were allocated. Along with the
22 recent reduction in the wolf population, with these two
23 in combination, will hopefully serve to rebuild this
24 population in time to a size that can support the needs
25 of qualified users.

26
27 Surveys conducted in Unit 19A north of
28 the Kuskokwim River in 2007 and south of the Kuskokwim
29 River in 2005 indicated that the affected population
30 remains in critical status and continued regulatory
31 restrictions on user access to hunt moose is necessary.
32 The affected area should remain closed to moose hunting
33 until the population could sustain a limited hunter
34 harvest. Adoption of the proposal would create hunting
35 pressure that would not favor moose population recovery
36 in the affected portion of Unit 10A.

37
38 Adoption of the proposed regulatory
39 change would provide access to Federal public lands in
40 the affected portion of Unit 19A for communities that
41 have a positive customary and traditional determination
42 for moose. A positive Board action on the proposal
43 would provide opportunity for Federally-qualified
44 subsistence users who are not residents of the six
45 communities eligible for the Section .804 permit
46 drawing and the western portion of Unit 19A.
47 Furthermore, Furthermore, residents from the remaining
48 19 communities included in the positive C&T use
49 determination for moose in Unit 19A would not be
50 permitted to harvest moose on Federal public lands in

1 Unit 19A.

2

3

4 Adoption of the proposal would not
5 comply with current management objectives in the
6 prescribed moose management plan for the central
7 Kuskokwim. Adoption of the proposal would create
8 hunting pressure that would not favor moose population
9 recovery. It is anticipated that a continued closure
10 of the hunting season along with the recent reduction
11 of wolves, again, will help rebuild this population to
12 a size that can support the needs of the qualified
13 users.

13

14

15 Mr. Chair, as Staff mentioned before,
16 we fully recognized the sacrifices that residents have
17 made in the lower Kuskokwim and also in Unit 19A and
18 with that said, the Staff recognizes the sacrifices
19 have been made, but here, as managers, we have to do
20 what is necessary to help this population rebuild to a
21 level that again, hopefully there'll be a surplus that
22 can be used by hunters.

22

23

24 So with that, Mr. Chair, the OSM
25 preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP08-35.

25

26

27 Thank you.

27

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
30 comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

30

31

32 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 The Department of Fish and Game are on Page 89 of your
34 Council meeting book.

34

35

36 The Department does not support this
37 proposal. We can't support a season being reopened in
38 this area until the moose population can once again
39 sustain harvest. Reopening the Federal season while
40 the State season is closed in Unit 19A north of the
41 Kuskokwim River also would create enforcement problems
42 because it's difficult to identify Federal lands to
43 distinguish between State and Federal lands in the
44 area.

44

45

46 Some local residents have complained
47 about the complex regulations and the difficulty of
48 hunting legally in Unit 19A because of this difficulty
49 they have in distinguishing land ownership. But by
50 creating another hunt in this area it would only make
51 the problem worse at this time.

1 Federal lands in Unit 19A that would be
2 open if this proposal were to be adopted are very
3 difficult to access, especially by riverboat, which is
4 the primary mode of transportation that local residents
5 use for moose hunting. So at this time, again, Mr.
6 Chairman, we do not support this proposal.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
11 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council.

12

13 Wildlife Proposal WP08-35:

14

15 Reopen the moose season in a portion of
16 Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River.

17

18 Introduction:

19

20 The proponent requests that the moose
21 season be reopened in Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim
22 River to benefit Federally-qualified subsistence users
23 in local communities and to promote harvest of bears
24 and wolves. The Federal Subsistence Board instituted a
25 temporary closure of this area for the 2006-07
26 regulatory year in response to Special Action Request
27 WAS-06-01 submitted by the Department of Fish and Game
28 to modify moose regulations in Units 19A and 19B. The
29 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council submitted
30 Proposal WP07-35 to make permanent this closure and
31 take other actions to achieve consistency with
32 regulations that had been adopted by the Board of Game
33 in March 2006. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted
34 this proposal with modification in May 2007.

35

36 Impact on Subsistence Users:

37

38 The closure of lands in Unit 19A north
39 of the Kuskokwim River and other regulatory changes
40 responded to goals of the Central Kuskokwim Moose
41 Management Plan. Conservative management is required
42 to facilitate a rebuilding of the low density moose
43 population so that it can once again support harvest.
44 Reopening the season at this time might temporarily
45 provide some hunting opportunity, but would exacerbate
46 the population decline and conservation concerns that
47 prompted the current closure. In the long term, this
48 action would be detrimental to the satisfaction of
49 subsistence needs because it would reduce the moose
50 population and further eliminate opportunities for

1 subsistence users and other hunters.

2

3 Opportunity Provided by State:

4

5 The Remainder of Unit 19A in State
6 regulations approximates the area covered by this
7 proposal and is also closed to moose hunting.

8

9 Conservation Issues:

10

11 Moose densities are low in Unit 19A
12 north of the Kuskokwim River. A survey in the Donlin
13 Creek Mine area north of the Kuskokwim River in
14 November 2007 counted only 179 moose during 49.5 hours
15 of flying time (108 cows, 53 calves, 3 yearling bulls,
16 8 medium-sized bulls, and 7 large bulls). Observing
17 only three yearling bulls suggests that the spike-fork
18 segment of this population is low. Because of the low
19 densities, however, the sample size is low as well.
20 Nevertheless, this proposal to reopen moose hunting in
21 Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River at this time is
22 not supported by substantial evidence and would be
23 detrimental to subsistence uses.

24

25 Enforcement Issues:

26

27 Reopening the Federal season while the
28 State season is closed in Unit 19A north of the
29 Kuskokwim River would create enforcement problems, as
30 it is difficult to identify Federal lands in this area.
31 Some local residents have complained about the complex
32 regulations and difficulty of hunting legally in Unit
33 19A because it is difficult to distinguish land
34 ownership. Another hunt in this area would only
35 exacerbate this problem. Federal lands in Unit 19A
36 north of the Kuskokwim River are difficult to access,
37 especially by riverboat, which is the mode of
38 transportation used by a majority of local rural
39 residents for moose hunting.

40

41 Recommendation:

42

43 Oppose until the moose population can
44 again support sustainable harvests. Adoption of this
45 proposal is not supported by substantial evidence,
46 would violate recognized principles of wildlife
47 conservation, and would be detrimental to the
48 satisfaction of subsistence needs over the long term.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Terry.

1 Federal, State and tribal agency comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Department of Fish and
6 Wildlife.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nobody coming from
11 your department, Fish and Wildlife for any comments.
12
13 MR. SUNDOWN: No.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments, okay.
16 InterAgency, they don't have any comments either. Fish
17 and Game Local Advisory comments.
18
19 MR. CHARLES: No comment.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'd just
24 pass along there was a companion proposal to this
25 submitted to the Board of Game at their recent meeting
26 in Fairbanks and the Stony Holitna River Advisory
27 Committee, that was originally created representing
28 those four villages up there were strongly opposed.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: They were opposed.
31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.
35 Summary of written comments. Alex.
36
37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. There were no
38 summary -- rather no written comments.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any Regional Council
41 comments.
42
43 MR. NICK: No, no comments.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Public
46 testimony.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nobody.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Advisory
4 Council deliberation, recommendation, justification.
5 Regional Council members. Greg.
6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Move to adopt Proposal
8 08-35.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made for
11 discussion on Proposal -- to adopt Proposal WP08-35, do
12 I hear a second.
13
14 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
17 Hoelscher. Any further discussion. Greg.
18
19 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Just for
20 the record and the justification here, I would concur
21 with Staff recommendations in this case and
22 additionally the grounds in question are 99.5 percent,
23 if not 100 percent all State lands or allotment and
24 corporation lands, so anything the Federal government
25 did would really essentially have no bearing here
26 anyway.
27
28 And the motion was to adopt, I am going
29 to be voting against this proposal because we only
30 have, what, May, June, July, August, four months until
31 possible opening of the -- uplifting of the moratorium
32 -- no next year, oh, shucks.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, any further
37 comment.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. HOELSCHER: Question.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
44 for. Roll call vote, please.
45
46 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. Greg
47 Roczicka.
48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
50

1 MR. ONEY: James Charles.
2
3 MR. CHARLES: No.
4
5 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
8
9 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
16
17 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: No.
20
21 MR. ONEY: Edgar Hoelscher.
22
23 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
24
25 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, no. We've got
26 six no, one yes.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion fails.
29
30 It is now 5:00 o'clock, what time is
31 our dinner supposed to be Mr. Alex.
32
33 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, I haven't heard
34 yet, they must still be cooking right now, they never
35 bring the food yet.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry Buklis, how long
38 do you think Proposal 39 through 45, how long do you
39 think that would take.
40
41 MR. BUKLIS: I think my overview
42 presentation would be about five minutes, Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do you guys
45 want to attack this one before dinner.
46
47 Okay, let's start out with Proposal 39
48 through 45, customary and traditional use determination
49 for Unit 22 for beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare,
50 lynx, marten and wolverine in Unit 22.

1 Larry.

2

3 MR. BUKKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management. I
5 would note also, Mr. Chairman, that Proposals WP 08-46
6 and 47 shown separately on your agency are very related
7 so although the analysis are separate in the book, my
8 speaking points will cover both and so I think you can
9 address 39 through 45 and 46 and 47 with what I'm
10 covering now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

13

14 MR. BUKKLIS: Okay, thank you. The
15 analysis for Proposals 39 through 45 start on Page 90
16 and the analysis for 46/47 starts on Page 99 in your
17 books.

18

19 Proposals 39 through 45 were submitted
20 by Kawerak, Inc., of Nome and they request a customary
21 and traditional use determinations for Unit 22 for
22 beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten and
23 wolverine in Unit 22. Proposals 46 and 47 were also
24 submitted by Kawerak, they request C&T for residents of
25 Unit 22 for spruce, grouse and ptarmigan, rock and
26 willow in Unit 22.

27

28 The existing C&T for beaver, Arctic
29 fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten and wolverine is for
30 all Federally-qualified rural residents of the state,
31 thus the proposal would narrow the C&T down to only
32 rural residents in Unit 22. The existing C&T for
33 spruce, grouse and ptarmigan is originally from State
34 determinations and it's very broad in scope, it's not
35 quite statewide but it's many units and the proposed
36 regulation would limit that C&T down to only rural
37 residents of Unit 22.

38

39 All of these proposals were deferred by
40 the Federal Subsistence Board last year in order to let
41 the Councils weigh in on the Staff Committee
42 recommendation to oppose the proposals.

43

44 Very little specific harvest data is
45 available for any of these species so we've combined
46 our analysis into one review.

47

48 Prior to 2006 the Board had never
49 addressed customary and traditional use determination
50 requests for these species. When we do a C&T review,

1 we consider eight factors and the written analysis in
2 the book covers the information on those eight factors
3 and the uses by Unit 22 communities and I won't go
4 through all those details here, they're in the book for
5 reference and for the record.

6
7 We are not really as concerned with the
8 uses in Unit 22 because it is clear that Unit 22
9 residents have harvested these resources in the unit.
10 The problem we're faced with by the proposal is that
11 people living outside of the unit who come into Unit 22
12 to hunt and trap may have some use but, again, there
13 isn't much information. There is some information
14 regarding subsistence users from outside the unit but
15 little in the literature or harvest data basis.

16
17 And to summarize what we heard at
18 Council meetings last winter, this is what information
19 we gathered.

20
21 People from Kaltag hunt furbearers in
22 22A along the Unalakleet trail, some people living
23 outside of 22A have marten trap lines along the
24 Unalakleet trail and would harvest a number of these
25 resources and Seward Peninsula Council members noted
26 that residents from 21D take furbearers and beaver was
27 specifically mentioned for Unit 22A. Mention was also
28 made of friends from Unit 23 who come over to hunt
29 beaver. There are some people in Unit 23 who go to go
30 to Granite Mountain Hot Springs and might take some of
31 resources while visiting. Subsistence use maps created
32 for Unit 18 communities show that Unit 18 subsistence
33 use areas for furbearers includes Unit 22A.

34
35 So, Mr. Chairman, what we're trying to
36 make clear here is that adoption of these proposals
37 would limit the C&T to residents of Unit 22 the
38 exclusion of some of these neighboring uses, which
39 we've got some information about, some testimony but
40 not a lot of data to point out to you otherwise.

41
42 To include, the effects of the proposal
43 as I said, would limit outside use from people outside
44 of Unit 22, and the OSM conclusion would be to oppose
45 the proposals, WP08-39 through 45 and 46/47. The need
46 for -- to justify this, the need for unit specific C&T
47 determinations has not been demonstrated for these
48 resources and the Board has not been making unit
49 specific determinations for these species. There is
50 insufficient harvest data and information regarding

1 these resources to base a narrowing down of C&T.

2

3 Mr. Chairman, I think that concludes
4 the main points.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game comments.

10

11 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 The Department's comments on Proposals 39 to 45 are on
13 Page 98 of your meeting book and our comments on
14 Proposals 46 and 47 are on Page 105.

15

16 Our comments are basically the same for
17 both sets of proposals.

18

19 The Department does not support these
20 proposals for the reasons that have been described in
21 the Staff analysis. By limiting eligibility for these
22 resources in Unit 22 it would not allow other residents
23 in surrounding units who may have a customary and
24 traditional use of those resources from harvesting
25 those resources under the Federal regulations. And so
26 we believe that the existing customary and traditional
27 use determination should remain in place until the uses
28 of residences in surrounding communities have been
29 evaluated and that when any changes are made to the
30 existing determinations that non rural communities that
31 have a history of harvesting resources in Unit 22 are
32 left out.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
37 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council.

38

39 Wildlife Proposals WP08-39 through -45:

40

41 Establish customary and traditional use
42 determinations in Unit 22 for beaver, red fox, Arctic
43 fox, hare, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

44

45 Introduction:

46

47 Because the Federal Subsistence Board
48 has not made customary and traditional use
49 determinations for these furbearer species in Unit 22,
50 all rural residents currently are eligible to harvest

1 them in Unit 22 under federal regulations. Adoption of
2 these proposals as written would limit eligibility only
3 to residents of Unit 22 and disallow harvest under
4 federal regulations by other rural residents. The
5 Federal Subsistence Board deferred action on these
6 proposals at its May 2006 and May 2007 meetings in
7 order to allow time for neighboring regional councils
8 to provide input and for staff to assemble information
9 on use of these species by rural residents in Unit 22
10 and adjoining units.

11

12 Impact on Subsistence Users:

13

14 Adoption of these proposals would not
15 affect federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 22
16 but would disqualify residents from adjoining units
17 from harvesting furbearers in Unit 22 under federal
18 regulations. The effect of establishing customary and
19 traditional use determinations is to provide a federal
20 preference to rural residents to harvest a particular
21 species on federal public land. Nonlisted rural
22 residents and other state subsistence users are subject
23 to limits on participation in times of shortage. The
24 Federal Subsistence Board should establish a priority
25 use based on substantial evidence of customary and
26 traditional use of each species for each geographic
27 area by more than just the residents of Unit 22;
28 otherwise, other residents, such as those in adjoining
29 units that have a history of harvesting these resources
30 in Unit 22, will be inappropriately eliminated.

31

32 Other Comments:

33

34 The Federal Subsistence Board has
35 previously made C&T findings for other species where
36 substantial evidence resulted in inclusion of more than
37 just Unit 22 residents, so findings for additional
38 species should also evaluate available information on
39 uses by other residents. At its May 1997 meeting, the
40 Federal Subsistence Board narrowed an existing
41 customary and traditional use finding for wolves in
42 Unit 22 to rural residents of Units 21D (north of the
43 Yukon River), 22, 23, and Kotlik. Areas and
44 communities outside of Unit 22 were included on the
45 basis of testimony from the Northwest Arctic and
46 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils.

47

48 Recommendation:

49

50 Oppose. We agree that the staff

1 analysis has insufficient information to specify which
2 rural residents have a history of use of the specific
3 wildlife population for subsistence purposes in
4 specific geographic areas in Unit 22. The federal
5 regulatory standard for a customary and traditional use
6 determination requires that a community or area
7 generally exhibit the eight factors listed in 50 CFR
8 100.16(b). The regulations require that the Federal
9 Subsistence Board s determination identify the
10 specific community s or area s use of specific fish
11 stocks or wildlife populations. In order to identify
12 these uses by a community or area for federal lands in
13 Unit 22, substantial evidence must support a decision
14 after meaningful Board discussion for each of the eight
15 factors on the record.

16

17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
18 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

19

20 Wildlife Proposals WP08-46 and 47:

21

22 Establish customary and traditional use
23 determinations for spruce grouse and for rock and
24 willow ptarmigan in Unit 22.

25

26 Introduction:

27

28 Because the Federal Subsistence Board
29 has not made customary and traditional use
30 determinations for these game birds in Unit 22, all
31 rural residents currently are eligible to harvest them
32 in Unit 22 under federal regulations. Adoption of
33 these proposals as written would limit eligibility only
34 to residents of Unit 22 and disallow harvest under
35 federal regulations by other rural residents. The
36 Federal Subsistence Board deferred action on these
37 proposals at its May 2006 and May 2007 meetings in
38 order to allow time for neighboring regional councils
39 to provide input and for staff to assemble information
40 on use of these species by rural residents in Unit 22
41 and adjoining units.

42

43 Impact on Subsistence Users:

44

45 Adoption of these proposals would not
46 affect federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 22
47 but would disqualify residents from adjoining units
48 from harvesting game birds in Unit 22 under federal
49 regulations. The effect of establishing customary and
50 traditional use determinations is to provide a federal

1 preference to rural residents to harvest a particular
2 species on federal public land. Nonlisted rural
3 residents and other state subsistence users are subject
4 to limits on participation in times of shortage. The
5 Federal Subsistence Board should establish a priority
6 use based on substantial evidence of customary and
7 traditional use of each species for each geographic
8 area by more than just the residents of Unit 22;
9 otherwise, other residents, such as those in adjoining
10 units that have a history of harvesting these resources
11 in Unit 22, will be inappropriately eliminated.

12

13 Opportunity Provided by State:

14

15 The state and federal season and
16 harvest limit for grouse are the same in Unit 22.
17 State regulations allow a harvest of 20 ptarmigan per
18 day and 40 in possession during a September 1 April
19 30 season in Unit 22.

20

21 Other Comments:

22

23 The Federal Subsistence Board
24 previously made C&T findings for other species where
25 substantial evidence resulted in inclusion of more than
26 just Unit 22 residents, so findings for additional
27 species should also evaluate available information on
28 uses by other residents. At its May 1997 meeting, the
29 Federal Subsistence Board narrowed an existing
30 customary and traditional use finding for wolves in
31 Unit 22 to rural residents of Units 21D (north of the
32 Yukon River), 22, 23, and Kotlik. Areas and
33 communities outside of Unit 22 were included on the
34 basis of testimony from the Northwest Arctic and
35 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils.

36

37 Recommendation:

38

39 Oppose. We agree that the staff
40 analysis has insufficient information to specify which
41 rural residents have a history of use of the specific
42 wildlife population for subsistence purposes in
43 specific geographic areas in Unit 22. The federal
44 regulatory standard for a customary and traditional use
45 determination requires that a community or area
46 generally exhibit the eight factors listed in 50 CFR
47 100.16(b). The regulations require that the Federal
48 Subsistence Board s determination identify the
49 specific community s or area s use of specific fish
50 stocks or wildlife populations. In order to identify

1 these uses by a community or area for federal lands in
2 Unit 22, substantial evidence must support a decision
3 after meaningful Board discussion for each of the eight
4 factors on the record.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Terry. Any
7 questions for Terry.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Federal, State and
12 tribal agency comments -- Thank you, Terry.

13
14 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are no -- no
19 Federal comments -- yes, Hollis.

20
21 MR. TWITCHELL: I haven't reviewed the
22 analysis so I'm not sure whether this has already been
23 covered but I would raise the question because of the
24 neighboring location of Kotlik and would want to make
25 certain that that community has and traditional uses is
26 analyzed for using 22A. As you recall last year we had
27 to do a modification to the C&T for Stebbins and St.
28 Michaels to grant them to come down into Unit 18 for
29 moose. The comments then talked about the traditional
30 sharing between those communities and use areas and
31 resources, and I just wanted to make certain that
32 Kotlik is duly considered for customary and traditional
33 use up in 22A for these species.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's if that
38 proposal is adopted. Thank you. No InterAgency Staff
39 comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Local Advisory
44 Committee, Fish and Game.

45
46 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written
49 public comments. Alex.

50

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. There were no
2 summary of written comments, public comments. But
3 other Councils made recommendations on this.

4
5 Western Interior opposed the
6 recommendation -- opposed the proposed Proposals 39 to
7 45, and their justification is determination not
8 needed, adopting would have negative effect on users
9 outside Unit 22 who hunt within the unit.

10
11 And Seward Peninsula supported the
12 proposal with modification, and their justification is
13 to modify -- modify to include Units 18, 21, 23
14 recognize uses of small game and accommodate needs of
15 users while traveling in Unit 22.

16
17 And Northwest Arctic opposed the
18 proposal and their justification is they want OSM to
19 collect the added information to support positive C&T
20 determination for Buckland and Deering.

21
22 Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's it.

25
26 MR. NICK: (Nods affirmatively)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public
29 testimony, if any.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
34 Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation
35 and justification. Regional Council.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The Chair will
40 entertain a motion for adoption for discussion
41 purposes.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move that
44 we adopt Proposals 39 through 49, is it?

45
46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: 39 through 45.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: 45, 46 and 47.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by
2 Mary to adopt WP08-39 to 45 and WP08-46 and 47, do I
3 hear a second for discussion purposes.

4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Greg. Any
8 discussion. Greg.

9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess
11 just to clarify from Staff, I mean the Board has
12 deferred this two years running because they didn't
13 feel they had the information that they felt they
14 needed and I'm wondering if there's anything at all
15 that's changed, has any additional information been
16 found in response to that request brought forward. It
17 doesn't appear to me there's any but I just want to get
18 that clear.

19
20 MR. BUKLIS: Larry Buklis, OSM. There
21 is not new information on the request.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
24 question.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
29 discussion.

30
31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, for the record,
32 Alex Nick. I did overlook something here for 46 and
33 47, the Council's actions.

34
35 Western Interior opposed the proposal
36 and their justification was determination needed -- was
37 determination needed, adopting would have negative
38 effect on users outside Unit 22 who hunt within the
39 unit.

40
41 And Seward Peninsula supported the
42 proposal with modification and their justification is
43 to modify and include Unit 18 -- I think I did that
44 already.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

47
48 MR. NICK: It's similar to Proposal 39
49 to 45.

50

1 And Northwest Arctic opposed the
2 proposal and their modification was to concur with OSM
3 analysis and conclusion.

4
5 Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Greg.

8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I'm going to vote against these proposals. And
11 essentially just because of that lack of information
12 that's there and, you know, Seward Peninsula and the
13 recommendation that they've made, they're essentially
14 trying to do a broad accommodation recognizing that
15 their neighbors do have -- are welcome to hunt when
16 they come over there and some of them do have --
17 actually would have that customary and traditional use
18 that are in close proximity. I'm thinking some of
19 those St. Mary's might when they go up Andreafsky and
20 over the hill they'd be over in 22 along with some of
21 the rivers down by the mouth and certainly the ones up
22 in 21 and 24, but to make a broad sweep and to say
23 that, you know, the whole GMUs all the way surrounding
24 have a C&T use, I just don't think it's there at this
25 time and we don't have enough information to make those
26 break downs to what communities would have it or not.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg.

29
30 Any further discussion.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do I hear a call for
35 the question.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: I'll call for the
38 question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
41 for. Mr. Secretary, please call the roll.

42
43 MR. ONEY: James Charles.

44
45 MR. CHARLES: No.

46
47 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: No.

50

1 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney votes no.
2 Edgar Hoelscher.
3
4 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
5
6 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: No.
9
10 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
13
14 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.
15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
17
18 MR. ONEY: Motion fails.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Motion
21 fails. We are now down to -- are we ready to eat yet.
22
23 (Sisterhood gal shakes head negatively)
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, not yet, she just
26 shook her head, so I guess we're still waiting.
27
28 Okay, we'll keep going.
29
30 MR. ANDREW: Did we vote these
31 together.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that was WP08-39
34 through 45 and 46 and 47. Now, we're down to 48 and
35 49, customary and traditional use determination for all
36 residents of Unit 22 for ground squirrel and porcupine.
37 Mr. Buklis.
38
39 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.
41
42 These are related to the proposals you
43 just took up but they're a little different so we did
44 no group them together.
45
46 The analysis for Proposals WP08-48 and
47 49 can be found on Page 106 of your Council books.
48
49 Proposals WP08-48 and 49 were submitted
50 by Kawerak, Inc., of Nome. They request customary and

1 traditional use determinations for all residents of
2 Unit 22 and year-round seasons and unlimited harvest
3 limits for ground squirrel and porcupine.

4
5 These proposals were deferred by the
6 Federal Subsistence Board in May 2006 and 2007. The
7 Federal Subsistence Board has never made customary and
8 traditional use determinations for ground squirrel and
9 porcupine anywhere in the state. The Board determined
10 in 1995 that certain wildlife such as squirrels and
11 porcupine would be considered unclassified wildlife and
12 unclassified wildlife would not require C&T use
13 determinations.

14
15 Mr. Chairman, this is what separates
16 these out as proposals from the other ones because our
17 reason for opposing is different.

18
19 Unclassified wildlife have no seasons
20 and no harvest limits. Customary and traditional use
21 determines are not required and are not seen as
22 necessary. Since porcupine and ground squirrels are
23 unclassified, all rural residents are eligible to
24 harvest these species under Federal subsistence
25 regulations statewide on Federal lands.

26
27 The effect of these proposals.
28 Opposing these proposals has no effect on the
29 subsistence users or the non-subsistence users in Unit
30 22 since these resources already have a year-round
31 season, unlimited harvest opportunities and they're not
32 sought after by non-subsistence users. Shortages of
33 ground squirrels and porcupines are not considered
34 likely.

35
36 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
37 oppose these proposals.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry.
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

43
44 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 The Department's comments are on Page 109 of your
46 Council book.

47
48 Under State regulations there are no
49 closed seasons and no harvest limits for ground
50 squirrel and porcupine, therefore, there's no need to

1 have Federal regulations and because the Federal
2 Subsistence Board does not regulate the harvest of
3 unclassified harvest, in our opinion there is no need
4 for the Federal Board to adopt this proposal.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council.

10
11 Wildlife Proposals WP08-48 and 49:

12
13 Establish a customary and traditional
14 use determination and open a season for ground squirrel
15 and porcupine in Unit 22 and establish seasons and
16 harvest limits.

17
18 Introduction:

19
20 The Federal Subsistence Board
21 determined in 1995 that ground squirrel and porcupine
22 were among the species to be defined as unclassified
23 wildlife in the Federal subsistence regulations.
24 Because the Federal Subsistence Board does not regulate
25 the harvest of unclassified wildlife, Federal customary
26 and traditional use determinations and seasons are not
27 needed.

28
29 Impact on Subsistence Users:

30
31 Adoption of this proposal is
32 unnecessary to accommodate Federally-qualified
33 subsistence users, because an unlimited opportunity to
34 harvest ground squirrels and porcupine is provided in
35 State regulations. Any new Federal season or harvest
36 limits could be detrimental to satisfaction of
37 subsistence needs.

38
39 Opportunity Provided by State:

40
41 Under State regulations, there are no
42 closed seasons and no harvest limits for ground
43 squirrel and porcupine.

44
45 Recommendation: Do not adopt. The
46 Federal Subsistence Board does not regulate the harvest
47 of unclassified wildlife.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Terry.
50 Federal, State agency and tribal agency comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hollis, do you have
4 any comments.
5
6 MR. TWITCHELL: (Shakes head
7 negatively)
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hollis, no comments,
10 okay. Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comments.
11
12 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Summary
15 of written public comments. Mr. Nick.
16
17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. There were no
18 written public comments. For the other Council actions
19 are as follows:
20
21 For Western Interior, Western Interior
22 opposed the proposal and their justification is that
23 determination not needed, adopting would have negative
24 effect on users outside Unit 22 who hunt within the
25 unit.
26
27 Seward Peninsula opposed the proposal
28 and their justification is not -- that -- excuse me --
29 not needed for unregulated species.
30
31 Northwest Arctic opposed the proposal
32 and their justification is to concur with OSM analysis.
33
34 Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex.
37 Public testimony.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody here named
42 public.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Advisory
49 Council deliberation, recommendation, justification.
50 Council.

1 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John
2 Andrew, Kwethluk. I move to oppose this wildlife
3 Proposal WP08-48 and 49 since we have no data to back
4 it up.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was the motion.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: To oppose the proposal.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Make it in a positive
11 please, to adopt it.
12
13 MS. GREGORY: Yes, a positive.
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Okay. I move to adopt the
16 proposal, WP08-48 and 49.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion has been made
19 to adopt WP08-48-49, do I hear a second.
20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Greg. Any
24 comments, Council comments. Discussion. Greg.
25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It's
27 something that's unnecessary and lord knows there's
28 enough things that are necessary that aren't being done
29 to keep our focus to.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody else.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to say that
34 porcupine and squirrel, I eat both of them.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I do too.
37
38 MS. GREGORY: They're very tedious to
39 gather to harvest and I don't mind doing that as long
40 as I'm free to go get it whenever they're available.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
43 discussion.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MR. CHARLES: Question.
48
49 MR. ANDREW: Question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
2 for, that's what I was waiting for.
3
4 Roll call vote, please.
5
6 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. James
7 Charles.
8
9 MR. CHARLES: No.
10
11 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
14
15 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
16
17 MR. ANDREW: No.
18
19 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
22
23 MR. ONEY: Mary Gregory.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: No.
26
27 MR. ONEY: Edgar Hoelscher.
28
29 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
30
31 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney votes no.
32 Motion fails.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion fails. We're
35 still not ready for dinner, then we'll go on down to
36 Item 10, subsistence wildlife issues -- oh, we've
37 already gone through Item 10.
38
39 MR. ANDREW: We've gone through that.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're down to Item 11
42 subsistence fisheries issues, the Yukon River Fisheries
43 Management agencies and organizations and their roles,
44 Gerald Maschmann.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maschmann.
49
50 MR. MASCHMANN: Pretty close.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You want me to try
2 again.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. MASCHMANN: Chairman. Council. My
7 name is Gerald Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks and I work for Russ
9 Holder and I assist him with Yukon River salmon
10 management. A member of the Western Interior Council
11 had requested a brief flow chart or document on the
12 different management entities on the Yukon River and on
13 the second sheet of the thing that I handed out to you
14 is basically a brief outline of the different entities
15 involved in that and I'll go over that.

16
17 Management of salmon fisheries in the
18 Yukon River is primarily the responsibility of the
19 State of Alaska, however, the Federal Subsistence
20 Management Program and the U.S./Canada Yukon River
21 Panel also play a role in managing Yukon River salmon.

22
23 The Federal Subsistence Management
24 Program is responsible for ensuring customary and
25 traditional use subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
26 under Title VIII of ANILCA. Since 1999 the Federal
27 government has enacted subsistence fisheries
28 regulations with the intent of providing a subsistence
29 priority to Federally-qualified rural subsistence users
30 in waters within and adjacent to Federal conservation
31 units in Alaska under ANILCA. The Federal priority for
32 subsistence fishers applies to those portions of the
33 Yukon River drainage which are within and adjacent to
34 Federal public lands, approximately half of the Yukon
35 River drainage. The Federal Subsistence Board
36 representing the Secretaries of Interior and
37 Agriculture adopts regulations through a public process
38 involving recommendations from Regional Advisory
39 Councils.

40
41 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
42 manages fish and wildlife on all lands and waters up to
43 three miles off shore. The Alaska Board of Fisheries
44 adopts fisheries regulations, subsistence, personal
45 use, commercial and recreational fisheries through a
46 public process involving the local Fish and Game
47 Advisory Committees. Under State law subsistence has
48 the highest priority use over other uses and all State
49 residents qualify for subsistence. State regulations
50 apply to all lands and waters unless Federal rules

1 supersede on Federal public lands.

2

3 Currently the subsistence fisheries are
4 under a dual subsistence regulatory system for waters
5 in which the Federal government has jurisdictions. The
6 public can submit proposals to change regulations and
7 submit comments on proposals within both the State and
8 Federal subsistence regulatory systems. State and
9 Federal agencies provide data, evaluate proposals and
10 make comment within both regulatory systems. State and
11 Federal subsistence regulations may differ where
12 Federal jurisdiction is asserted.

13

14 State and Federal agencies attempt to
15 coordinate in-season fisheries management under the
16 Yukon River Subsistence Fisheries Management Protocol.

17

18 The U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel was
19 provided for by Congress in the Yukon River Salmon Act
20 of 2000. The Yukon River Panel consisting of Canadian
21 and U.S. members is responsible for carrying out
22 provisions established in the Yukon River Salmon
23 Agreement, which was signed in 2002 as an annex to the
24 Pacific Salmon Treaty. The panel provides
25 recommendations to U.S. and Canadian management
26 entities concerning conservation and management of
27 Canadian origin salmon.

28

29 The U.S./Canada Yukon River Joint
30 Technical Committee consists of Canadian, Federal,
31 State, local and regional organizations, provides
32 technical support to the panel. The agreement species
33 ADF&G is the responsible management entity for Alaska
34 and the United States for the purposes of any agreement
35 with Canada regarding management of salmon stocks
36 originating from the Yukon River and Canada.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

39

40 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: I have one.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

47

48 MS. GREGORY: Under the State of Alaska
49 Fisheries management, what is the justification for
50 three mile up the bank, managing the rivers up to three

1 miles off the bank?

2

3 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, I'm not too sure
4 where they came with the three miles but it probably
5 has something to do with NOAA is beyond that, the
6 Federal government takes over, like out at sea, but
7 then three miles in shore is, I guess, they consider
8 State waters.

9

10 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
11 Department of Fish and Game. I think that's
12 nationally, all the state coastlines, Texas, California
13 what have you, within three miles of land the State
14 entities manage the fisheries, et cetera, beyond that
15 it's Federal jurisdiction.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
20 questions.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Is this on State lands or
31 Federal lands, because we have fish camps and we're not
32 three miles up the beach.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have an answer
37 to that?

38

39 MR. MASCHMANN: No, I don't have an
40 answer. I mean if you're not three miles out then
41 you're dealing with the patchwork of State and Federal.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Some of our fish camps
44 are (In Yup'ik), you know. Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think this was
47 mainly for information purposes.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay Mary.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: (Nods affirmatively)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
6
7 MR. ANDREW: Item B.
8
9 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm the next agenda
10 item.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, yeah, and
13 somebody's in the middle, what's this -- was there
14 something with the CFC coordination.
15
16 MR. HOELSCHER: CFC, we did that.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All right, we'll go on
19 down to Item B.
20
21 MR. MASCHMANN: Go ahead.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Since you're there you
24 might as well go through it.
25
26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
29
30 MS. GREGORY: I'm going to apologize
31 for thinking it was the rivers he was talking about,
32 you're talking about oceans, right.
33
34 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: Okay.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We do have a little
41 bit of -- what do you call, some of us do have a little
42 funny bone.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.
47
48 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman. Council.
49 If you will, I would like to present the 2008 Yukon
50 River Salmon Season Outlook, and that's the first sheet

1 I handed out to you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For the Yukon -- for
4 this Yukon River outlook, I think the person from the
5 Refuge wanted to be in on it, our subsistence person,
6 Robert, did you want to make a presentation on one of
7 these.

8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: No. Doug was going to
10 do a joint presentation but he's not here. Robert will
11 be back tomorrow and if he has any additional material
12 he can do it under the agency report section.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, so it's all
15 right if we go ahead with it.

16

17 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All right, let's go
20 ahead then. Go ahead.

21

22 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you. Both
23 Federal and State Yukon River fisheries managers are
24 planning to start the season using the Alaska Board of
25 Fisheries windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule
26 beginning in late May in the lower Yukon.

27

28 Similar to the last seven years, a
29 joint information sheet discussing the 2008 outlook
30 will be published and distributed to Yukon River
31 fishermen in May. The following 2008 Yukon River
32 salmon outlook information was summarized from draft
33 U.S./Canada Joint Technical Committee report sections
34 authored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 managers and researchers.

36

37 For chinook salmon the 2008 run is
38 expected to be below average and similar to the 2007
39 run. Although the overall number of Canadian origin
40 chinook salmon was low in 2007, the age six proportion
41 of the run was above average whereas the age five
42 proportion was below average. Spawning ground
43 escapements in 2002 and 2003, the brood years producing
44 age six and age five fish returning in 2008,
45 respectively, were well above average throughout the
46 drainage. It is anticipated that the 2008 run will
47 provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence
48 harvest and a below average commercial harvest.
49 Fishery management will be based upon in-season
50 assessment of the run. However, there is a possibility

1 that the run may not be large enough to support even a
2 small directed commercial fishery. If in-season
3 indicators of run strength near the mid-point of the
4 run project sufficient abundance will exist to have a
5 commercial chinook fishery the commercial harvest may
6 range from 5,000 to 30,000 chinook salmon including the
7 incidental harvest taken during anticipated summer chum
8 salmon directed periods.

9
10 The summer chum salmon, if ocean
11 conditions remain favorable, it is anticipated the 2008
12 run will be near average and provide for escapements,
13 support a normal subsistence and commercial harvest.
14 The 2008 summer chum salmon run is dependent upon the
15 escapements occurring in 2004, which are age four fish,
16 and 2003 which are age five fish. Summer chum salmon
17 runs have exhibited steady improvements since 2001 with
18 harvestable surpluses in each of the last five years.
19 If in-season indicators of run strength suggests
20 sufficient abundance exists to allow for a commercial
21 fishery the commercial harvest surplus in Alaska could
22 range from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon. The
23 actual commercial harvest of summer chum salmon in 2008
24 will be dependent on the market conditions. The
25 overall harvest may be affected by the potentially poor
26 chinook salmon run as chinook salmon are incidentally
27 harvested in chum salmon directed fisheries.

28
29 The 2008 fall chum salmon run size is
30 expected to be near average with a preliminary
31 projection range of 890,000 to 1.2 million fish. The
32 Yukon River 2008 fall chum salmon run will largely be
33 from the parent years of 2003 and 2004. The projection
34 is based on return per spawner brood year calculations,
35 improvement in production observed since 2003 and an
36 expectation that parent year productivity will be
37 normal. The 2008 projected run size should provide for
38 escapement, support normal subsistence fishing
39 activities and provide for commercial opportunities
40 where markets exist. The run will be monitored in-
41 season to determine the strength in relation to the
42 projected range.

43
44 The 2008 coho salmon run is anticipated
45 to be average to above average based on the parent year
46 escapement in 2004. Since coho salmon return primarily
47 as age four fish. The revised Yukon River Coho Salmon
48 Management Plan allows directed commercial coho salmon
49 fishery when there is a harvestable surplus of coho
50 salmon and the fall chum salmon return is greater than

1 550,000 fish.

2

3 And, again, if you have any questions
4 beyond what I can answer you can call Steve Hayes or
5 Fred Bue or Russ Holder at the numbers at the bottom of
6 the page.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
9 questions for Gerald.

10

(No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Gerald.

14

15 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I see a couple
18 people here that haven't been introduced. The first
19 person that walked in earlier was Becca Robbins from
20 YRDFA, she's sitting right there, and our friend Andrew
21 Kelly, just walked in from Emmonak.

22

23 I think we've been told dinner is ready
24 to be served, is that correct, ma'am, dinner's ready to
25 be served.

26

27 Okay, let's take a dinner break and you
28 guys wanted to come back, so let's take a 45 minute
29 break and be back here at 6:30. Okay, let's take a
30 dinner break.

31

(Off record)

33

(On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we're back to
37 work.

38

39 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

42

43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Before you start
44 I would like to make an announcement.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Alex, go ahead.

47

48 MR. NICK: The announcement is for
49 those of you who arrived today and haven't heard the
50 food that we've been eating last day and a half or so

1 is prepared by the local Orthodox Sisterhood volunteers
2 and money that we pay for breakfast, lunch and dinner
3 is going to the charity, charitable funds of
4 Sisterhood. So everyone is asked to pay either by cash
5 or by personal check to the Sisterhood volunteers,
6 Adrian Kerr, Bolossa Michaelson, I believe, raise your
7 hand, and Cathy Wise. Those are three ladies you could
8 see and pay for your lunch. And I believe if you eat
9 all three meals in a day it'll cost you \$37 for
10 breakfast lunch and dinner. So we need to pay these
11 folks before we leave. Those of you who are leaving
12 today, if you plan to leave today and not attend the
13 meeting in the morning, we ask if you could kindly pay
14 these young ladies for your meals.

15

16 And another announcement, principal and
17 probably other school staff are not here, Tina
18 volunteered to receive the payments for your
19 lodging.....

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. NICK:if you need to leave
24 either early in the morning or tonight, if you stayed
25 here last night and then she will pay the school in
26 turn on your behalf, if you don't need a receipt that
27 is. But if you need a receipt for your lodging then
28 you'd have to wait until the morning to pay for your
29 lodging.

30

31 I hope I captured what I was supposed
32 to announce.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.
37 Mr. Buklis, you're next.

38

39 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I handed out a letter sent to you as the Yukon
41 Kuskokwim-Delta Chair from Sue Entsminger, Eastern
42 Interior Council Chair and Jack Reakoff, Western
43 Interior Council Chair. The letter is dated December
44 21st, 2007. And I think, Mr. Chairman, the main point
45 in the letter is the up river Council Chairs re
46 inviting the YK Council to join them in working towards
47 common understandings and common solutions to
48 challenges on the Yukon River in the salmon fisheries
49 with the CFC, the Coordinating Fisheries Committee.

50

1 I'll just read a few key points out of
2 the letter but I think that's the main point they're
3 making.

4
5 And, again, my name is Larry Buklis
6 with OSM.

7
8 The Eastern Interior and Western
9 Interior Regional Advisory Councils would like to
10 explore avenues of better communication and cooperation
11 regarding Yukon River fisheries issues. The request is
12 to have the Yukon River Coordinating Fisheries
13 Committee or CFC, with its respective Council Chairs
14 meet in the near future to explore options to foster a
15 cooperative atmosphere between the Councils. With the
16 YK-Delta's timely support this request would advance to
17 OSM for approval and scheduling.

18
19 And, Mr. Chairman, I think the
20 experience a year ago with the fisheries cycle and the
21 gillnet mesh size and mesh depth and chinook salmon
22 management issues was part of what precipitated this
23 desire for more coordination and communication. That's
24 my understanding.

25
26 So I think it's an invitation to get
27 your interest in getting the CFC to work together on
28 this issue and then OSM would consider scheduling and
29 providing support for that.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Buklis.
34 Any comments.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

39
40 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, along with the
41 Chairs and the CFC is made up of the two
42 representatives that we select here and they select for
43 their respective Councils, so we'd be looking at
44 roughly nine people altogether is what you're looking
45 at.

46
47 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
48 believe the CFC is composed of two people from each of
49 the three Councils and then the Council Chairs are
50 either part of it or sort of by their position,

1 invited. So it's six to nine, depending on whether the
2 Council Chairs also participate. So that's why the
3 letter is written the way it is, they invite the CFC
4 members and the Council Chairs, that's why it's said
5 that way.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further question
8 or comment on this.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the -- what do
13 you people -- what do the Council Chairs.....

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What does the Council
18 feel concerning this request.

19
20 I personally don't see any reason not
21 to meet with these other CFCs, we do have a problem
22 with our being able to understand where each other --
23 or the other two Chairs are coming from, but we always
24 seem to have a disagreement with the Eastern Interior
25 and I think that relationship could have some benefit,
26 a meeting would have some benefit for that relationship
27 I think, and in my opinion I think it might be a good
28 idea. But this is just my opinion.

29
30 Any other opinions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, I'll just go
35 down the line.

36
37 Mary, do you have any opinion.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: No.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

42
43 MR. ROCZICKA: Sure, I always got an
44 opinion. No, I kind of hesitated to speak a little bit
45 because it is a Yukon issue so I was looking for a
46 little more feeling from the guys from the Yukon on it.
47 But I mean it's certainly always worth the effort to
48 try to put something together and work things out. I
49 mean on the Kuskokwim side we've got the working group
50 there and it was war for many years until that came

1 around. So no matter how you might feel about it,
2 maybe you'll get nowhere but you always got to try.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, the reason why
5 I'm smiling I just realized that there's just three of
6 us from the Yukon, no wonder I wasn't getting any
7 response.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any
12 comments.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm in
15 agreement with you, that I can see a benefit with the
16 three different Advisory Councils working together.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar, do you have any
21 comments.

22

23 MR. HOELSCHER: I would like to see a
24 compromise with, you know, we have -- ever since I've
25 been on the Council, you know, issues have come up in
26 regards to, you know, fishing down lower and fishing on
27 the upper and it's a good idea to, you know, come in
28 and sit down and kind of battle out some of the issues
29 to where we can compromise.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
36 got no problem with that, I think a dialogue needs to
37 be put in place, you know, more often so we understand
38 where the people are coming from up river and where
39 people are coming from down river, you know, as long as
40 they don't pit one against the other and that's what
41 I've been seeing, you know, since I've been on here.
42 We've been getting a lot of proposals that were going
43 against the lower Yukon River and if they want to start
44 a dialogue then I think we have to, you know, meet them
45 halfway and let them know where we're coming from.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ray.

48

49 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.
2
3 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 If Yukon CFC accept this invitation that works out for
5 Kuskokwim side, it's very -- really good because we
6 work with, what's his name, the guy from McGrath, he's
7 with Western Interior, he's our member at Kuskokwim
8 Salmon Management Working Group, so that works out good
9 even I live at the mouth of Kuskokwim, we have our
10 meetings sometimes weekly when we have some things to
11 take care of during the summer. So this invitation for
12 lower Yukon is going to help too, just like Kuskokwim,
13 so I have nothing against this one.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Are you going
18 to be carrying the message to Vince Mathews then?
19
20 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can
21 make a note of that. You might also just want to make
22 a motion to support working with the other members.
23 I'm not sure how you want to respond to that letter.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, does the Council
26 feel that there should be a motion to this effect or
27 just a directive.
28
29 Mary.
30
31 MS. GREGORY: Just a unanimous consent,
32 I don't think it requires a motion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
35
36 MR. ANDREW: A directive.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections.
39
40 (No objections)
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections.
43
44 (No objections)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So be it. You could
47 get Mr. Mathews and let him know that our Regional
48 Council supports this request and he should get working
49 on it ASAP as he requested in his letter.
50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I've made a note of that.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Buklis.
5 Next -- you might as well just sit there, stay there,
6 because you're going to be the Federal Subsistence
7 Management Program update on salmon bycatch in the
8 Bering Sea Aleutian Island pollock.
9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: Point of order.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: State your point.
17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: On that 11, we only got
19 through the middle A1, is the outlook for the Kuskokwim
20 not part of this, or have nobody to address it or what?
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's going to be
23 addressed tomorrow when, what's his name.....
24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: Robert.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE:when Robert comes
28 over.
29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. He asked me, if
33 we did get to this agenda item, to hold it until
34 tomorrow when he gets here so I think we'll honor his
35 request.
36
37 We're down to Item C.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
42
43 MS. GREGORY: For the record I move to
44 suspend the rules and move that item until Robert gets
45 here tomorrow.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So any objections.
48
49 (No objections)
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we'll do that.
2 Okay, formalities are taken care of, it's up to you.

3
4 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Item 11C on your agenda is an update on salmon bycatch
6 in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands pollock fishery,
7 and you've got two parts. Federal Subsistence
8 Management Program, which I will cover, Larry Buklis,
9 OSM, and I will be followed by Becca Robbins covering
10 an update from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
11 Association.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

14
15 MR. BUKLIS: So to begin with, my
16 portion, Page 110 of your Council book has a letter
17 from the Office of Subsistence Management, as was
18 mentioned earlier today, from the Office of Subsistence
19 Management to the National Marine Fisheries Service on
20 this issue of the salmon bycatch. I'll highlight a few
21 key points and then remind you on some of the recent
22 developments, sort of a recent timeline.

23
24 In terms of the scope of the issue.
25 Salmon bycatch by the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands
26 pollock fishery has been increasing at a rapid rate
27 over the last five years. In this period, bycatch
28 records were established of 122,000 chinook salmon in
29 2007 and about 712,000 non-chinook salmon in 2005, and
30 Becca will have more details on these. These high
31 rates are a concern to the Federal Subsistence Board
32 and that concern is captured in the letter on Page 110.

33
34 In terms of the timeline, in December
35 2007, so about four months ago, the National Marine
36 Fisheries Service announced its intent to prepare an
37 environmental impact statement on the salmon bycatch
38 reduction measures in this Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands
39 management area. The proposed action would replace the
40 current chinook and chum salmon savings areas with new
41 regulatory closures, salmon bycatch limits or some
42 combination of both. So they put out a statement on
43 the problem and some proposed alternatives to dealing
44 with the program instead of the current savings area
45 approach.

46
47 In February 2008, so last month. The
48 Board -- the Federal Board and the Chairs of the
49 Eastern Interior, Western Interior and your Council
50 submitted letters all urging that the National Marine

1 Fisheries Service significantly lower these salmon
2 bycatch levels. The Board recommended that at least
3 one alternative should be examined that would reduce
4 salmon bycatch to levels below the 1990 to 2001
5 averages of 38,000 chinook and 69,000 non-chinook.
6 Compare that to what I said earlier about some recent
7 records, so we're proposing 38,000 chinook, 69,000 non-
8 chinook and those recent records were 122,000 chinook
9 and 712,000 non-chinook. So you can see the scale of
10 the problem.

11
12 The Board's proposed alternative that I
13 mentioned is consistent with the U.S./Canada Yukon
14 River Salmon Agreement signed in 2002 which requires
15 the U.S. to seek to increase in-river returns by
16 reducing marine catches and bycatches.

17
18 Finally, Mr. Chairman, on my portion of
19 the overview, February 2008, the North Pacific Fishery
20 Management Council, which has jurisdiction over these
21 bycatch fisheries made two notable changes to their
22 salmon bycatch motion.

23
24 First, expansion of the problem
25 statement to more fully point out the
26 conservation concerns and the
27 importance of subsistence salmon
28 fisheries.

29
30 Second, the lowered the top end of the
31 range being considered for caps from
32 108,000 to 87,500 chinook.

33
34 That concludes my overview and the
35 reference to the letter.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Becca.

38
39 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. I'm just going to hand out something.....

41
42 MR. BUKLIS: I could do that.

43
44 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you.

45
46 MR. BUKLIS: One of each.

47
48 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah.

49
50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Okay, it looks
4 like everybody has one now. Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 Members of the Regional Advisory Council for giving me
6 the opportunity to speak with you about this important
7 issue.

8

9 My name, again, is Becca Robbins-
10 Gisclair and I'm with the Yukon River Drainage
11 Fisheries Association. And what I wanted to do since
12 no one from our organization has talked with you on
13 this issue in I think at least a year or so, I wanted
14 to just kind of go over the general background of the
15 bycatch issue and then go into some more detail on
16 what's currently being considered by the North Pacific
17 Fishery Management Council, which Larry mentioned. And
18 the white packet that you have is just some figures I'm
19 going to go through as I'm talking about this, there's
20 a lot of information in here, so there's some graphs
21 that make it a little bit easier to grasp.

22

23 So just starting off, as Larry
24 mentioned, in 2007 the pollock fleet, which is the
25 fishery that catches most of the bycatch in the -- most
26 of the salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea caught over
27 122,000 chinook salmon, which was an absolute record,
28 it was higher than even the previous record which was
29 when the Japanese were the ones conducting the pollock
30 fishery in the '80s and the record, I think, was
31 115,000 then. So this is far above that. And in 2007
32 the pollock fleet caught about 97,000 chum salmon.

33

34 And if you flip that first page over
35 you'll see a graph that shows sort of the trends on
36 salmon bycatch and the groundfish fishery, and I
37 apologize the print's a little small, but you can see
38 from the bars that chinook salmon really has increased
39 dramatically in the past five years, it's never been
40 this high and it's been consistently going up.

41

42 Chum salmon bycatch, on the other hand,
43 which is the graph on the right there, you can see
44 there was a huge increase in 2005 and the 2007 number
45 is a decrease from the past two years but when you look
46 at it over the long-term history, you can see that
47 really we're just back at what the average has been.
48 So it's not so much a decrease as a return to what has
49 happened previously to the huge numbers we saw a couple
50 of years ago.

1 So looking at the next figure there,
2 the reason that this is of such great concern for our
3 Yukon and Kuskokwim River people is that the origin of
4 the chinook salmon caught as bycatch and the
5 percentages that I'm going to talk with you about are
6 from a study that was done from 1997 to 1999 samples
7 using a scale pattern analysis and Kate Myers at the
8 University of Washington found that 56 percent of the
9 chinook salmon caught as bycatch were from Western
10 Alaska, and of those 40 percent were from the Yukon
11 River and 26 percent were from the Kuskokwim River.
12 And just a side note, you can see those are from
13 samples back in the late '90s but recently there's been
14 some genetic studies that are currently ongoing on the
15 samples from 2006 and 2007. And from the preliminary
16 results that we've seen it looks like the genetic
17 studies are consistent with these and that it is about
18 the same portion that are still coming from Western
19 Alaska.

20
21 So if you flip over to the next page,
22 Page 3, just giving you a sense of what those
23 percentages mean in real numbers, and I apologize I
24 just did these for the Yukon because that's what I'm
25 used to working with, but you could do the same for the
26 Kuskokwim and see what number would have come back.
27 Using the 2007 chinook salmon bycatch number of the
28 122,000 and accounting for the marine mortality that
29 would have occurred that means over 23,000 chinook
30 salmon which would have returned to the Yukon River had
31 been caught as bycatch instead. And when you compare
32 that to the in-river uses, you can see how huge that
33 really is, it was 68 percent of the 2007 commercial
34 catch, 46 percent of the subsistence catch and 70
35 percent of the Canadian escapement goal. So those are
36 really incredibly huge numbers.

37
38 Then moving on to what's been done to
39 try and reduce salmon bycatch. The North Pacific
40 Fishery Management Council, which has authority over
41 the pollock fishery, and, therefore, can put management
42 measures on that fishery to try to reduce the bycatch,
43 since the mid-1990s has utilized what are call salmon
44 savings areas and this is the picture on Page 3 there
45 and you can see chinook salmon savings areas on the
46 left and they're just those shaded boxes that you can
47 see and the chum salmon savings on the area. And the
48 basic premise of these is that they're areas that were
49 chosen at that time because they had high amounts of
50 salmon bycatch and when the pollock fishery reached a

1 set amount that area closed to pollock fishery for a
2 set period of time. And those had been used since the
3 mid-1990s, in 2000 or so the pollock fleet started to
4 feel that that wasn't effective and they were starting
5 to possibly encountering higher bycatch because of
6 those closure areas so they moved to something that's
7 called the voluntary rolling hot spot system, and I'm
8 now on the back of that page, Page 4. And I won't go
9 into too much detail on this system because it's highly
10 complicated and I still don't entirely understand it
11 but I'm happy to answer questions afterwards if you do
12 want more information.

13

14 The basic premise of it is that the
15 pollock fleet is trying to move away from areas of high
16 bycatch on a continuous basis. So they report their
17 bycatch rates to a central administrator called
18 Seastate and twice a week Seastate issues these
19 closures for the areas that have the highest bycatch
20 but as you can see from the numbers in 2007 it really
21 hasn't been very effective. Those are the highest
22 numbers on record and that was under this new voluntary
23 rolling hot spot system. And an important part of this
24 is that all of the pollock boats which are
25 participating in this hot spot system are exempt from
26 that savings areas that I showed you on the previous
27 page and the entire pollock fleet is participating in
28 the hot spot system, so while the savings areas are
29 technically still on the books, they don't actually
30 apply to any of the pollock fleet at this point it's
31 just this hot spot system that applies.

32

33 So given the numbers of the past few
34 years and the obvious conclusion that the hot spot
35 system alone wasn't reducing salmon bycatch the North
36 Pacific Fishery Management Council decided to take a
37 look at some new salmon bycatch reduction measures and
38 the slide on the bottom of Page 4 there is just a line
39 from the Council's statement about what they're
40 attempting to do with these bycatch measures. And
41 there are a number of different things which can be
42 applied in addition to this hot spot system or instead
43 of the hot spot system.

44

45 And if you flip to the next page, Page
46 5, listing out a few of the alternatives, and
47 alternatives is just the Council's way of saying
48 options, that they're currently considering. And the
49 way the Council process works is that they'll have a
50 whole list of options to choose from and then from that

1 they can pick, in this case, one or more which will be
2 the actual measures that go forward and so there are a
3 lot of things on this list and not all of them will be
4 what's chosen.

5
6 And basically the options are divided
7 into two different types. One are hard caps, and
8 that's a set number which when the pollock fishery
9 reaches it, the entire fleet is shut down from fishing
10 for pollock. The other type of option that's being
11 considered are area closures, much like the salmon
12 savings areas that are a set area and just that area
13 closes when a set number is reached.

14
15 And within the hard caps the Council's
16 considering a number of different ways of getting to
17 the number to set that hard cap at. The first is using
18 historical averages on a three, five and 10 year
19 average. The second is setting a cap relative to
20 salmon returns. And I should note that that one is
21 sort of a work in progress, there's a lot of unknowns
22 in the calculations, they need to do that, so it may
23 not actually be an option at the end of the day. The
24 third one is using an existing number, which is the
25 incidental take permit amount and that's the 87,500,
26 which is the top ends of the caps that they're
27 considering, and that's related to several Washington
28 species of chinook, which are listed under the
29 Endangered Species Act, and so that's a number that's
30 already applied to the pollock fishery as a sort of
31 limit and so it was carried over into this analysis as
32 a possible cap. And then the fourth option reflects
33 the requirements in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement to
34 reduce salmon bycatch. And the agreement basically
35 states that both the U.S. and Canada will reduce
36 bycatch and that agreement went into force in 2002, and
37 so using that, the Council is using pre-2002 historical
38 averages of five and 10 years to arrive at a cap that
39 would theoretically comply with the Yukon River Salmon
40 Agreement under that analysis.

41
42 The other type, which I mentioned, are
43 area closures and there are two types of area closures
44 being considered. One are triggered closures and those
45 are like the salmon savings areas where you have a set
46 area but it only closes when a certain amount is
47 reached. The second type is a fixed closure and that's
48 a closure that's set for every year and it just closes
49 no matter what. There's no trigger that has to be
50 reached, and those are designed around -- there's a

1 couple areas where the pollock fleet consistently
2 catches high bycatch at the same time of year and so
3 that would be a closure that would just apply
4 automatically.

5
6 So given all of those options and what
7 we've seen with the voluntary rolling hot spot system,
8 it really seems at this point that hard caps offer the
9 best protection for Western Alaska salmon without there
10 being room for error. I think there certainly are all
11 sorts of creative ways to reduce bycatch and the hot
12 spot system may be further developed to be able to do
13 that but we really need a limit set on the number of
14 salmon that can be caught as bycatch while those sorts
15 of experiments are going on.

16
17 And you'll see at the bottom of Page 5
18 there, taking those averages that I had mentioned above
19 and seeing what they mean in terms of actual numbers,
20 and you can see there from the three year average, from
21 2004 to 2006 of 68,392 chinook and 498,733 chum, it's
22 sort of the top end of those averages, and then at the
23 bottom, actually the second to the last on that chart
24 for chinook is the pre-2002 five year average which is
25 29,323. And you can see on here there are various
26 numbers within that range depending on which average
27 you use. And I should note here the Council is
28 considering chinook and chum as two separate entities
29 so they can pick one management measure for chinook and
30 a different one for chum. And so they don't have to
31 say, we'll use the three year average, for instance,
32 for both chinook and chum, they could pick a different
33 one for each.

34
35 Then if you flip that page over to Page
36 6, just to make things a little more complicated, what
37 the Council has done has taken those averages for the
38 hard caps and taken the top and the bottom, and the
39 bottom is that 29,000 number for chinook and the top is
40 the 87,500 that I mentioned from that incidental take
41 permit, and they basically divided it into four
42 different options for their analysis, which looks at
43 sort of evenly spaced numbers, and so that's what
44 they'll actually be looking at in the environmental
45 impact statement that was mentioned.

46
47 So moving on -- you can see on the
48 bottom of that Page 6, I have some dates listed there
49 to give you an idea of how long this is all going to
50 take, the Council process is quite a lengthy one and

1 then after the Council process, the North Marine
2 Fisheries Service, which is the agency which has
3 authority over these fisheries has their own process to
4 issue regulations. So you can see here, coming up in
5 April of this year, the Council will be reviewing a
6 draft environmental impact statement and revising some
7 of the options that they're looking at currently. Then
8 in June they're going to be taking another look at it
9 and possibly selecting which of the options is their
10 preferred. Then December of 2008, the Council is
11 supposed to be taking final action, so choosing which
12 of the options are going to go forward. And then the
13 final rule, or the proposed rule from the National
14 Marine Fisheries Service would go out in March in
15 2009, the final rule would go out in September of 2009.
16 And at that point anything that isn't on a calendar
17 year could go into effect, but any sort of hard cap
18 that would accrue based on a calendar year wouldn't go
19 into effect until January of 2010. So it's quite a
20 long time before any of this is actually in place. But
21 I also wanted to go through this because at each of
22 these steps there's an opportunity for public comment
23 and Lester graciously wrote a letter to the last
24 Council meeting and the scoping for the environmental
25 impact statement and both the Eastern and Western
26 Interior Regional Advisory Councils, as well as the
27 Federal Subsistence Board has been sending letters in
28 and there are opportunities at each step I mentioned
29 here, to do so, and to continue to push for salmon
30 bycatch reduction measures and to stress how important
31 this is to communities on the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

32
33 And that's all the information I have
34 for you today and I'd be happy to answer any questions
35 that you have.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Becca. Any
38 questions. An'anaq.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: I don't know what hard
41 cap means, can you explain that and also this little
42 map you have here, which is the fishing area, the one
43 by the Aleutian Chain or down further?

44
45 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Sure. Through
46 the Chair. Hard caps are essentially a number that's
47 set for the amount of salmon that's caught as bycatch
48 and once that number is reached, the pollock fishery
49 has to stop fishing.

50

1 And then on the image that you're
2 referring to the areas you can see, the sort of shaded
3 area just north of the Aleutians.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: That's the what?

6
7 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: That's the
8 chinook savings area so that's the area that closes
9 when the pollock fleet reaches a set amount, and that's
10 what's currently on the books, but most of the fleet is
11 exempt from, so it doesn't really apply to anyone right
12 now.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Andrew.

19
20 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John Andrew
21 from Kwethluk. Do all of your all the floating
22 processors have a monitor program for bycatch?

23
24 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Through the
25 Chair. The pollock fishery is required to carry
26 observers and the amount of observer coverage -- and
27 those observers are responsible for counting the number
28 of salmon that are caught as bycatch and dependent on
29 the size of the boat and the type of boat there are
30 factory trawlers, catcher processors, and mother ships
31 in the pollock fishery and depending which of those
32 sectors they fall in, they have different requirements
33 for how often they have to carry observers. The
34 factory trawlers, for instance, are required to carry
35 two observers at all times. And the catcher boats,
36 which are the smaller boats, which deliver either on
37 shore or to the mother ships, they're required, you
38 know, based on their size, if they're larger boats
39 they're required to carry them more frequently. And
40 for all of those boats, as well, when they're not
41 carrying observers, they're required to keep the salmon
42 that they've caught and bring it with them when they
43 deliver to the shore side plant or to the mother ship
44 and then there are observers at both of those places
45 that count as the salmon are brought in as well.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Then I heard that people
48 came back from floating processors, is that they catch
49 other species other than their targeted pollock, even
50 mammals and birds, they said that they dump them

1 overboard by the tons and they're never actually
2 recorded.

3

4 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: That's certainly
5 possible, the numbers that we have are just that which
6 the observers are counting. One of the things I should
7 mention, too, in how they're looking at all of these
8 options is there are some which are require caps on
9 either the different sectors of the pollock fishery or
10 by the individual co-ops, because the pollock fleet is
11 divided into co-ops and under that there would be a
12 requirement that they either have 100 percent observer
13 coverage or they're considering some type of electronic
14 monitoring where there'd be sort of a video going to
15 see if that sort of thing occurred.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

20

21 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. How long is that VRHS area and the second
23 question is, is that the migration area of both species
24 like the Area M issue we had a while back?

25

26 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: The voluntary
27 rolling hot spot system doesn't have set closure areas,
28 it moves dependent on where the pollock fleet is
29 catching high bycatch so it moves pretty regularly
30 around -- yeah, within where the pollock fleet's
31 fishing.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

34

35 MR. HOELSCHER: Second question. I
36 asked whether that was the migration of both species of
37 chinook and chum and if that's something like the Area
38 M issue we had?

39

40 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Well, in part,
41 we're not entirely sure what the migration patterns
42 are. The genetics have shown, from what I've seen in
43 the preliminary results, that a lot of the Western
44 Alaska chinook are taken up further north near the
45 Pribilofs. But certainly part of this fishery -- a big
46 part of this fishery occurs just north of the
47 Aleutians. And the preliminary genetic results are
48 still Western Alaska chinook being caught there, but
49 not in as great a proportion as up by the Pribilofs.

50

1 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
4 Mr. Charles.
5
6 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Are the hot spots high catch for only pollock or both
8 bycatch too?
9
10 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: The -- are you
11 asking about the hot spots that they're closing?
12
13 MR. CHARLES: Uh-huh.
14
15 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: They're
16 determined based on the salmon bycatch rates so they
17 don't take into consideration what the pollock rates
18 are. And the Council process where they're looking at
19 new closure areas, they are looking at are there areas
20 where the bycatch rates are very high and the pollock
21 catch rates are low because those would obviously be
22 the easiest place to close because you're not hurting
23 the pollock fishery because it's not a high fishing
24 area but you would eliminate some of the bycatch,
25 unfortunately it seems what I've heard from the fleet
26 itself that a lot of -- because pollock and salmon are
27 basically together they're catching a lot of salmon and
28 a lot of pollock at the same time.
29
30 MR. CHARLES: But they can move to
31 different areas.
32
33 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Uh-huh.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Becca, is there a
36 timeline for comments, a time -- is there a deadline
37 for comments for the-- to the National Marine
38 Fisheries?
39
40 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: There are kind
41 of a number of different deadlines. Each Council
42 meeting has its own deadline. The one for the April
43 meeting, I believe is March 26th, in general and the
44 Council will be meeting again in June, in the first
45 week in June, and the comment deadline is usually two
46 weeks before they meet so it would be mid-May that the
47 comments are due at that point.
48
49 Then for the National Marine Fishery
50 Service, the next time to comment would be for the

1 draft environmental impact statement and that will be
2 occurring over the summer, from what I understand, so
3 between June and August.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For the Board's
6 information there is a timeline that was short for
7 comments that were supposed to have been made and we
8 had a request from the Eastern Interior and Western
9 Interior to support their letter, so I wrote a letter
10 by myself, under my name, excluding the Council members
11 because I couldn't say anything that might be mistaken
12 as Council comments. So I did write a letter to them
13 on my behalf stating the objections that we had and
14 suggesting possibly using hard caps for their decision
15 and a couple other comments that were included in the
16 letter that was written by Western and Eastern
17 Interior.

18

19 Any other questions. Greg.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Just to speak a little bit to what you said there, I
23 think we're pretty much on record regarding this
24 bycatch issue and so you writing a letter in the
25 absence of a Council meeting, again, we are on record
26 for that, so I think that's perfectly appropriate to be
27 done.

28

29 And I just wanted to tell Becca as
30 well, that I really do appreciate the work that you
31 guys are going forward with this, you know, you weren't
32 here this morning but one of the long-time fellows
33 here, that's been around for years, and Calvin was
34 saying how that doesn't seem to be -- people aren't
35 making as much noise as they used to about it from our
36 area and he, I guess, was referring more to the
37 Kuskokwim and so I know that that was going forward so
38 I didn't argue with him about it, but I really
39 appreciate.

40

41 This is a little bit -- kind of an
42 observation, I guess, you know, you mentioned about
43 January 2010 is still a long ways off but, you know,
44 this issue has been ongoing for 20 to 30 years, that
45 people have -- I can remember in 1992 when the
46 delegates to the negotiations team for the Yukon River
47 Salmon Treaty in Dawson, I think it was, for the first
48 time ever, got together and that was a letter that they
49 wrote and all signed cooperatively together and they
50 were actually scolded and chastised by the State

1 Department officials because they were not supposed to
2 be talking to each other, the only words going back
3 between the U.S. and Canada was supposed to be through
4 the negotiators, Larry's smiling because he was there,
5 too.

6

7 But I did have actually a question in
8 kind of regarding along those same type of issues but a
9 little bit of a devil's advocate, it caught my ear.
10 When you mentioned the numbers that you've come down --
11 for the break down in the bycatch.....

12

13 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA:and how they've
16 been allocated was done by scale pattern analysis, and,
17 again, I'm going back into history a bit here, but
18 thinking, you know, through '85 through '90 when kind
19 of the first identification of the intercept fisheries
20 for Western Alaska were being done and the Area M war
21 started with the caps that were put into place, and a
22 lot of that was based on an '85 study, scale pattern
23 analysis that was done, the Conrad study, I think they
24 called it, but that greatly discredited -- at the time
25 it was saying that up to 97 to 98 percent of what was
26 being indicated there were Western Alaska and it caused
27 a great deal of debate, and as we all know it was kind
28 of discredited to a large degree and the scale patterns
29 -- scales were not accurate enough to make those kind
30 of determinations, and I wondered if when you said that
31 these were drawn from the scale pattern, has it really
32 advanced to that level, gotten better since years past
33 or.....

34

35 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I'm going to let
36 Larry answer that one.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: And, again, Larry was
39 there then in the False Pass wars of the late '80s.

40

41 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. In response
42 to that question, a couple points.

43

44 First the slide you're referring to is
45 dealing with chinook salmon and the Area M issue was
46 chum salmon. And the chum don't have freshwater growth
47 to speak of and the chinook have a year or two and
48 that's a key -- and the transition to the marine part
49 is a key characteristic of the scale pattern, so scale
50 patterns have been more reliable for chinook than chum.

1 And also I think in the Area M chum
2 issue, people were wanting to take it to some levels
3 that -- like Norton Sound, and then within Norton
4 Sound, Snake River and different rivers, and Nome
5 River, so people were trying to push the information
6 beyond what it could do as well.

7

8 So I think there was a couple things
9 there. Whereas this breakdown is for chinook and it's
10 quite regional. Yukon versus Bristol Bay versus
11 Kuskokwim as a whole.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do we have
16 any further questions for them.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: I have a couple
19 questions on Page 3.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Your data information,
24 the percentages of the 2007 commercial catch, were they
25 taken from that 23,000 figure?

26

27 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, the 68
28 percent of the 2007 commercial catch, yeah, it's
29 comparing that 23,000 number to the total commercial
30 catch in the Yukon in 2007.

31

32 MS. GREGORY: So what you're telling me
33 68 percent of it were 2007 commercial catches, 46
34 percent of the subsistence catch and 70 percent of the
35 Canadian escapement goals?

36

37 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, and it's
38 just -- it's comparing each of those different in-river
39 uses to the 23,000. So it's not that -- that's why
40 they don't add up to 100 percent, it's taking each of
41 those separately and comparing it to the 23,000.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: (Nods affirmatively)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you,

50 Becca.

1 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry. Go ahead,
4 Ray.

5

6 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Becca, back in, I don't remember what year that was
8 when I was sitting on the YRDFA, the issue of bycatch
9 came at a meeting in Holy Cross, I don't remember what
10 year that was, it could have been five, 10 years ago,
11 where we invited the National Marine Fisheries and also
12 NOAA personnel were there, and I believe the bycatch
13 was like in the 20s, if not the -- 20 to 30,000 range
14 and we were concerned, you know, about that and we were
15 trying to find some ways to let National Marine
16 Fisheries know that, you know, we're concerned and we
17 want that bycatch reduced and, you know, I'm a little
18 disturbed to see that that's been steadily climbing
19 over the years so you could probably refer back to the
20 minutes. I don't remember what year that was, but we
21 brought that issue up of bycatch at the meeting in Holy
22 Cross.

23

24 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you. And
25 that's an issue that's been raised in the context of
26 the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, too, is that when
27 that was signed in 2002 when bycatch was at about
28 40,000 people were really upset that that too high and
29 now we're at three times that last year and that's
30 obviously way, way, way too high.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions or
33 comments. I want to make sure I look with both eyes
34 open this time. Any more questions.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: I think I just have a
37 comment that it warrants a lot of that hard cap to
38 happen because these things are happening and what are
39 we waiting for.

40

41 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Well, I think if
42 it was up to all of us we would have had a hard years
43 ago. The way the Council process works is that it's
44 pretty heavily dominated by pollock interests and the
45 last thing that the pollock fishery wants is a hard cap
46 because that would actually cause them to stop fishing
47 for pollock and lose some of their income. So that's
48 part of the challenge here, is that, it is going to
49 take a lot of pressure from us throughout Western
50 Alaska to convince the Council that they do need to put

1 a hard cap in place.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell them that
4 this little woman said that.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Absolutely.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Becca.
11 You've done a lot of work for us in helping us with
12 bycatch and not just in this organization but in other
13 organizations that we have in the state. Thank you
14 very much for your help.
15
16 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to --
19 Larry, you just can't leave that seat, can you.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fisheries
24 Resource.....
25
26 MR. EVAN: Is there no public comment.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you want to make
29 some comments, go ahead, you're welcome to.
30
31 MR. EVAN: I was watching the History
32 Channel on these trawlers fishing out in the Bering
33 Sea. I mean there's a lot of shipwreck out there.
34
35 MR. ANDREW: Name, for the record.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, just for the
38 record, I'm sorry, you've got to give your name.
39
40 MR. EVAN: My name is Paul Evan, Jr.,
41 city council member for the city of lower.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Now, you
44 can go ahead.
45
46 MR. EVAN: The amount of ships out
47 there, they got really high tech equipment to catch
48 these pollock, and it's between the deepest point and
49 where the top ridge, where they -- all the pollock
50 comes from the deep ocean and it comes up and schools

1 of fish, these -- like cone shaped nets are about half
2 a mile long and once they catch that pollock it's
3 manufactured right there on the ship.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Processed.

6

7 MR. EVAN: It's processed. And it's
8 already made right there, it's not giving the people
9 jobs around here because it's already manufactured
10 right there in that trawler. And it's amazing how much
11 they caught. With the equipment they have it's really
12 technical, it tells you where all the wrecks are, where
13 the depths are, because of the sound waves they produce
14 under the ship.

15

16 And on the Bering Strait -- I mean the
17 Bering Sea could they limit the amount of catch there
18 because they're catching all kinds of fish right
19 between the deep ocean and the top?

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, they might be
22 able to do that but that's all under the jurisdiction
23 of the National Marine Fisheries and, although we can
24 oppose some of the things that they're doing out there,
25 there isn't very much we can do as far as controlling
26 that so it takes a lot of concerned people like you, to
27 write letters to the National Marine Fisheries, your
28 concerns.

29

30 MR. EVAN: Their crews are only 153 in
31 one trawler and the amount of fish they caught, I mean
32 they make a lot of money at it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it.

35

36 MR. EVAN: It was on the History
37 Channel yesterday, so, yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that your comment?

40

41 MR. EVAN: Could they limit the number
42 of boats out there, there's one boat that doesn't.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you want to answer
45 that?

46

47 MR. EVAN: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe you have a
50 couple answers for this young man here, Becca, for a

1 couple of his questions.

2

3 Becca's been working on this for a long
4 time so she has a pretty good knowledge of what goes on
5 out there so some of the questions, she might give you
6 a good answer.

7

8 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I'll answer what
9 I can.

10

11 First of all on limiting the number of
12 boats that are out there, since 1998, the pollock
13 fishery has been limited, was it, the American
14 Fisheries Act, that basically set out a set number of
15 boats and even named the specific boats that can
16 participate in that fishery so the boat's participating
17 can't expand any further.

18

19 And I believe there's a limited numbers
20 of those huge factory trawlers. I think it's -- I
21 can't remember exactly, but it's between two and four
22 that participate in that fishery.

23

24 And as far as the amount of catch that
25 they're allowed, the North Pacific Fishery Management
26 Council along with the National Marine Fishery Service
27 sets what's called their total allowable catch, or
28 their TAC every year, and this year, 2008, their
29 allowable catch was reduced significantly from the
30 previous year and basically that's because -- they base
31 it on the biomass of pollock that's present in the
32 ocean and pollock is currently declining so their
33 catch, that they're allowed to catch is also down from
34 last year but that is another thing that the Council
35 decides and so to request reductions in their catch
36 would also have to go through the Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that help answer
39 your question.

40

41 MR. EVAN: Yeah. Yeah. I hope
42 something's done about this because people need jobs
43 around here and it's being processed right on the ship
44 there before it reaches land.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That portion, we'll
47 probably never be able to change that.

48

49 MR. EVAN: Yeah, it's amazing how much
50 fish that that one cone catches a half a mile long,

1 just to let you guys know.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And thank
4 you, Becca.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
9
10 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
11
12 I want to thank the gentleman for
13 bringing those things up because we're here to hear
14 things from the local people and our meeting is very
15 fruitful, I think, because we have a lot of input from
16 the local people and I thank you very much for your
17 input.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Mr.
20 Buklis.....
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE:please take the
25 stand.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MS. GREGORY: Don't move.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And before you get
34 started, it looks like we don't have Alex here so we've
35 got just three more items, D, E and F, that you'll be
36 covering both the Fisheries Resource Monitoring and
37 also Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, Item 1
38 update. Okay.
39
40 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 Yes, your coordinator was taken ill and he had to step
42 out but he should be back in the morning.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. The Fishery
45 Resource Monitoring Program update is found on Page 115
46 in your Council book. I'll highlight a few key points.
47
48 The Fishery Resource Monitoring
49 Program, which is managed by the Office of Subsistence
50 Management, as you know, as moved to a two year cycle,

1 where a monitoring plan will be developed every other
2 year. And 2008 is a year in which we have launched new
3 projects so the next new year of projects will be 2010.
4 The next request for proposals will be issued this fall
5 for projects that would begin in 2010. A draft plan
6 will be presented to the Regional Advisory Councils
7 during their fall 2009 meetings. So this fall we'll
8 have the call for proposals, next fall you will receive
9 the draft plan to review, and this will be leading up
10 to a year 2010 field implementation. The Board will be
11 approving a plan in January 2010 for those new starts.

12
13 The two tables on Pages 115 and 116
14 lists the projects in your region. There's 29 projects
15 that'll be operating this year, 15 are in the Kuskokwim
16 region and 14 in the Yukon region. And I didn't plan
17 to go over each of the projects, Mr. Chairman, but
18 they're there for your reference as to the project name
19 and who the lead investigator is.

20
21 And that's all I intended to highlight
22 on the Monitoring Program.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
25 Larry. Edgar.

26
27 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. How do you do your draft plan, do you
29 request for proposals from the tribal councils or what?

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The call
32 for proposals that leads up to the draft plan is sent
33 out quite broadly. It's on the internet, it's -- we
34 mail out the call, there's news releases, so it's not
35 targeted at particular individuals, it's -- we try to
36 make it as well known as we can.

37
38 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it.

41
42 MR. HOELSCHER: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry.
49 Now, you can get your partner down there -- now, that
50 you've got your partner, you can monitor.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
4 Buklis with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll
5 begin this next section which is Item 11 E on your
6 agenda Partners For Fisheries Monitoring Program. I'll
7 update you on the program overview and then Mike
8 Thalhauser will speak about the KNA partner program
9 specifically, and of interest to you in this region.

10

11 So to begin the overview of the
12 Partner's Program, it's on Page 117 in your Council
13 book and I'll highlight, again, a few key points on
14 this program.

15

16 Office of Subsistence Management
17 announced a call for proposals for this program in
18 November 2006 and that's to implement the second phase
19 of the Partner's Program. The Partner's Program began
20 in 2002 with a five year plan, and that ended in 2007.
21 So 2008 is the start of the new phase of the program.

22

23 We received 14 proposals for the
24 Partner's Program to begin in 2008, and those proposals
25 totaled \$1.7 million and our actual funding available
26 is six to \$700,000. In the end what we've approved is
27 six scientists and educator positions, four are full-
28 time, and two are part-time. The positions are one for
29 the Yukon, the Kuskokwim has one full-time and two
30 part-time, and Southwest Alaska has one, that's kind of
31 Bristol Bay and then Southcentral has one.

32

33 Speaking specifically to your regions
34 of interest. In the Yukon region, Tanana Chiefs was
35 awarded a partner fishery biologist and I believe
36 that's Brandy Berkbigler, and she'll be working as a
37 principal investigator on the Henshaw Creek Weir and
38 support development of a Yukon/Kuskokwim whitefish
39 strategic plan and she'll also be mentoring rural
40 college students through projects and programs.

41

42 And within the Kuskokwim, as I said KNA
43 was awarded two positions, a fishery biologist and an
44 educator position. And I think I'll let Mike speak to
45 what they'll be covering. And then also to let you
46 know ONC has a half-time position, and others here
47 could probably speak better than I to what may be done
48 with that position.

49

50 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my

1 overview of the Partner's Program.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
4 questions for Larry before you begin.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
9 Larry.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry. Go
14 ahead.

15

16 MR. THALHAUSER: Thanks, Larry, and
17 thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Mike Thalhauser,
18 I'm with the Kuskokwim Native Association out of Aniak.
19 And actually after talking with Alex leading up to this
20 he told me I would be going tomorrow and I have a
21 PowerPoint presentation that I think would do it a
22 little more justice as far as explaining the projects
23 that we have going on. So if it would be all right
24 with you, I'd request that maybe I could present that
25 tomorrow.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that okay?

28

29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That will be okay.

32

33 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's it as far as
36 Kuskokwim Native -- and you'll continue with that
37 tomorrow.

38

39 MR. THALHAUSER: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And call for
42 proposals, I guess the Item F will have to wait until
43 tomorrow also, so we'll be recessing until 9:00 a.m.,
44 is that all okay with you, everybody, okay for 9:00
45 o'clock in the morning.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Recess at what.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll be recessing
4 now, the time is 7:35, 36, 37 -- it's 7:37, see you
5 guys in the morning and thank you all for coming.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: What time tomorrow.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 9:00 in the morning.
10
11 (Off record)
12
13 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of March 2008.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12